

MOTHER WHO RAISED £450K IN ROSIE'S MEMORY AWARDED MBE



Fundraiser Karen Ross

A SELFLESS mother who set up a charity after her daughter was killed on a shopping trip has been recognised in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Karen Ross, from Aldridge, is the mother of tragic teenager Rosie Ross, who was killed aged 16 while on a shopping trip with a friend in Birmingham, in 2001.

Mrs Ross started the charity Rosie's Helping Hands with her husband Sean as a way of turning the grief of losing their daughter into something positive.

After raising £450,000, the 56-year-old has been awarded an MBE for her services to charity and the reduction of knife crime among young people in Walsall.

She said: "I can't believe it, it still hasn't

sunk in and I've known for around a month. I'm surprised and deeply humbled because it's such a prestigious award and something I had never even thought about.

"It's just wonderful but it's not just for me – it's for my husband Sean and everyone who has supported the charity over the years. I received a letter at the end of November and I just burst into tears. It has been difficult trying to keep it quiet as you can imagine."

Asked whether Rosie would have been proud of the award, she said: "I can go by my son's reaction and he thinks it's pretty awesome and so I think she would have done. It's bitter-sweet really."

Rosie was stabbed to death in Birmingham's Centenary Square in May, 2001. The

charity in her name has raised cash through 15 annual walks and other fundraising events – but is now winding down before it closes next summer.

Siraaj-ul-Haq Nadat, from Walsall, was also honoured. The senior quality of life facilitator at Changing Our Lives has been awarded a British Empire Medal for services to people with disabilities. The organisation works with disabled people and people with experience of mental health difficulties.

Marcia Shakespeare, who has worked with West Midlands Police on projects aimed at preventing young people being involved in crime since her 17-year-old daughter Letisha was shot in Birmingham in 2003, was awarded an MBE.



Rosie, killed in 2001

PLANNING

Public safety fear sparks ATM move

PLANNING officers have ordered that a cash machine installed outside an off licence be removed over fears it is 'detrimental to the safety of those who use it'.

Bosses at Walsall Council meet today, Thursday, to discuss forcing the owners of 38-40 West Bromwich Street in Caldmore, which houses the Kabani off licence, to remove the cash machine after it was installed without planning permission.

Owners will be given one month to remove the machine, with Walsall Council expressing its concern that it is harmful to the safety of residents by being in 'an area of high crime'.

Issues relating to drivers parking on double yellow lines to access the machine have also been raised.

A statement from a report reads: "The installation of the ATM is detrimental to the personal safety of those who use the facility and replenish it, by virtue of it being in an area of high crime rates and the lack of a high quality and robust system of security in place to protect its users. The ATM results in indiscriminate parking either on the double yellow parking restrictions on West Bromwich Road or on the pavement outside the site."

WINTER

Survival kits given out to homeless

MEMBERS of a Walsall mosque have given out 'cold survival kits' to homeless people in the borough to help them through the winter months.

In a donation to the Glebe Centre, which is currently providing shelter to the homeless across the borough, members of the Aisha Mosque, based in Palfrey, gave iCare kits to help the community as the weather drops.

Mehboob Alam, president of the Aisha Mosque, said: "Aisha Mosque works very closely with all key service providers in Walsall as we are very much part of the wider community we live in. I want to thank the congregation who have always supported our appeals and these winter survival kits are a good idea to help our vulnerable homeless people in Walsall."

Due to the cold weather, the Wednesfield Road centre currently is open to the homeless until January 22 from 9pm to 9am.

INSIDE

Disney dream for youngster



PAGE 3

Calls made to protect historic Highgate site left unsold ARSON FEARS AT EMPTY BREWERY

CALLS have been made to consider the future of an empty historic Black Country brewery, with fears it could be subject to arsonists if it continues to stand derelict.

The Grade II listed Highgate Brewery in Walsall failed to sell with a guide price of £850,000 at Villa Park on December 8. The site in Sandymount Road, which opened in 1898, was renowned for its famous Black Country brew Highgate Dark Mild – a favourite of leather workers in the town.

Now, Councillor Mohammed Arif fears that the brewery could be subject to fires if it lies derelict, similarly to incidents at Shannon's Mill and William House, elsewhere in Walsall.

He said: "If that building is allowed to be left derelict, we have seen with Shannon's Mill and William House that mysterious fires have been started and no culprit has been found."

"I fear and residents fear that unless security is tight and it's looked after then this is what could happen if it is left derelict."

Preserved

"What we are suggesting is to encourage people to come on board. To work with Friends of Highgate Brewery, the local residents, and local council to come up with a comprehensive development plan for the site."

The auction was held by SDL Bigwood Auctions, based in Birmingham.

A meeting of several concerned residents to discuss the future of the brewery and how it should be preserved was held at the Black Country Arms

Report by Tom Oakley

in High Street, Walsall last month. Walsall Council had hoped it could be revived, but in the sales brochure, potential buyers looking to convert it into apartments have been invited.

If Highgate Brewery was sold and transformed, councillor Arif says he would like to see developers complement it with a museum.

He added: "Local residents and particularly the Friends of Highgate Brewery group would want to work with the developers to turn this around into something that is sympathetic to the local area. I would like to see a museum on the site and development to complement it. We need to make sure that whoever buys it is aware of what they're buying."

In its heyday, the brewery employed 65 people and produced 100,000 barrels a year supplying beer to more than 400 venues across the region. Its future was discussed last year when a council report said the optimal use would be for it to be restored as a brewery.

New year baby is our superhero



New Year baby Thor with parents Abbie Jones, aged 25, and Lee Davis, 29

IN the eyes of his doting mother and father, baby Thor is a real-life superhero. And while he did not arrive wielding an enchanted hammer – like the Marvel Comics character he is named after – he does have a special birthday having been born on New Year's Day.

Thor is the second child for parents Abbie Jones, aged 25, and 29-year-old Lee Davis, and the task of coming up with the name was this time left to Lee.

While Abbie admits the name is a little unusual, the couple from Bloxwich could not be happier with their boy, who weighed in at 7lb 10oz (3.5kg).

Lee, who works as a plasterer, said: "I like the film Thor and it was from that I thought of the name. I'm not 100 per cent sure why I went for it but I do like the name and I guess that it just caught my eye."

Abbie, added: "When our daughter was born I picked the name Kiera so I said to Lee that this time it was up to him."

"Thor is defiantly quite unusual but it is already growing on me."

Giving birth to Thor was an epic struggle all of its own, with Abbie arriving at hospital on New Year's Eve morning and then spending 12 hours in labour before finally he arrived at 7.30am yesterday.



abbey blinds



abbey curtains



abbey cushions

**WE MANUFACTURE,
SUPPLY & FIT**
Curtains - Cushions
Perfect Fit - Intu
Vertical - Venetian
Blackout - Roman
Roller - Pleated
Conservatory Blinds

abbey blinds
25-28 Elmore Green Road
Bloxwich
Walsall
WS3 2HW
www.blindsbyabbey.co.uk
showroom 9am-5pm Mon-Sat
0800 0194655

2 CONTENTS

RHODES	4
LETTERS	7
FAST TICKET	23
TV	26
PUZZLE PAGE	29
PROPERTY	31
SPORT	39-40

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01543 465305
E-mail: walsall.chronicles@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Sarah Jones
Tel: 01543 465341
E-mail: sarah.winfield-jones@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Marguerita Finnegan
Tel: 01902 319627
E-mail: marguerita.finnegan@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Phil Morris
Tel: 01902 319177
E-mail: p.morris@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Walsall
CHRONICLE

51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

DON'T MISS YOUR
Express & Star

EVERY DAY
PETER RHODES
The man who takes a sideways look at life

EVERY SATURDAY
NIGEL HASTILOW
He always tackles the hot topics head-on

CCTV hope to track down dentist raiders



One of the raiders on CCTV

A WALSALL dental practice ransacked during the festive period has released CCTV footage of the raiders in an attempt to bring them to justice.

Brownhills Dental Practice, based on the high street, was broken into at some point between Friday December 23 and Wednesday December 28.

It is the second time the practice has been broken into in the space of nearly two months and workers at the practice have reportedly said that they are now scared to open up in the mornings for fear they will find the door has been

opened again. The practice, which fitted a new high-security lock after the first incident, has released CCTV images of the raiders. The various images show the three men, all with their hoods up, working their way through the practice. One of the raiders is wearing a puffer jacket with Nike shoes.

Nav Dhaliwal, the practice's owner and principle dentist, claims she recognises the three men from the last time the practice was targeted. On that occasion there were four offenders.

After the first incident at the start

of November the practice tightened its security measures, meaning the raiders left practically empty-handed this time around. Despite turning the practice over and leaving a substantial mess, only the phone was taken.

Ms Dhaliwal, 39, from Glasgow, said the raiders hesitated because of the new, more secure, lock but eventually they used what looked like an electric saw to gain entrance. Speaking about the impact the incidents have had on her practice and her staff Ms Dhaliwal said: "Everyone is shaken up, no-one wants to

Someone must know how our Surjit died

"SOMEONE knows something. He didn't just go missing. Please someone, for my children's sake, come forward."

The emotional words of Lavina Sohl, who is no closer to knowing how her ex-husband and father of her children Surjit Takhar met his death.

For seven years Mr Takhar remained a missing person. But that all changed in August last year when his remains were found next to the M54 in Shropshire.

While it solved one part of the mystery and answered one question, confirmation that he had died, it led to many others for his devastated family.

Detectives have now confirmed they are treating the death of Mr Takhar, from Oldbury, as murder. His remains were found next to the slip road of junction four of the M54 for Shifnal.

Ms Sohl, from Willenhall, and their twin 22-year-old daughters, Sohnia and Sohmay, returned to the site where the remains were found to make a heartfelt plea for anyone who can provide answers to what happened to him to come forward so they can begin move on.

Waiting

Ms Sohl had been married to Mr Takhar for 14 years but the pair split up two years before he went missing. The 43-year-old said she saw him five days before he was reported missing, when he visited her.

She said: "He knew everyone, everyone knew him."

"He just came across as wanting to do anything for anyone. Once you met him, you would never forget him. He's not the type of person who would go missing. There has to be someone who knows something."

"We are still waiting for answers. Back then, I was told he had moved to a different country. But I had my suspicions that something had happened to him. Then I found out he's dead. It doesn't feel right at all. How can he just be dead? For years and years I've battled with it, day and night, even in my sleep."

The devastated mother said the family were desperate to lay Mr Takhar to rest, which they have not yet been able to do because of the criminal investigation. She said: "We just want to have a funeral and say goodbye to him properly."

"It's been really hard, it still is. Someone knows something. He didn't just go missing. He's been put there."



Appealing for help -former partner Lavina Shol, with twin daughters Sohmay and Sohnia Takhar



The slip road at exit 4 for the M54 east bound where human remains

"Please someone, for my children's sake, come forward."

Mr Takhar, who also has a 21-year-old son called Harry, worked as a delivery driver in the year before he went missing and was previously a laminator for Gurso Lining in Great Wyrlie. He was known as Skin amongst family and friends.

His brother-in-law Jasvir Sohl said he was 'a genuine, one-in-a-million individual who loved with all his heart and was loved by us all'.

He said: "We are heartbroken we will never see him again and know he would feel the same that



Surjit Takhar

he will not be able to see and embrace loving moments in this life with his friends and family."

Detectives said they are keen to delve further into the victim's life before he went missing, where he went and who he associated with in the hoping of unlocking the mystery of who killed him and why.

He had a wide circle of friends in the Asian community and would regularly visit pubs in the Handsworth area.

Anyone with information should call detectives on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Fireworks petition is signed by thousands

MORE than 3,300 people in the Black Country and Staffordshire have backed a petition calling on the Government to ban the sale of fireworks to the public.

The petition, which has been signed by about 150,000 people across the country, wants only organised displays to be approved to help prevent injuries and protect animals.

But in a response, the Government said it had no plans to limit the sale and use of fireworks any further. In the run-up to the new year celebrations, which saw the sky set alight, there was a rush to sign the petition.

Across the region, there were 401 supporters in Wolverhampton, while nearly 500 backed the campaign in Walsall and more than 560 in Dudley and Wyre Forest. Numbers for areas include 270 in West Bromwich, 198 in Halesowen and Rowley Regis, 180 in Stourbridge and 99 in Warley.

Despite tens of thousands of responses, the matter will not be debated in Parliament, as it was previously discussed in early June.

Mike Old, who created the petition, wrote: "Every year people are hurt, burnt, maimed and even lose their lives through accidents involving fireworks."

"Every year people are terrorised by the misuse of fireworks. Every year animals are hurt and traumatised by fireworks."

Arsonists target empty pub site

ARSONISTS set light to a derelict pub in Walsall, which developers hope to turn into a shop. The blaze took hold at the Lime Kilns, on Northgate, formerly known as the Struggling Monkey.

It took firefighting teams nearly an hour-and-a-half to control the flames last week. Two crews from Aldridge Fire Station attended the incident. West Midlands Fire Service have confirmed it was being treated as arson.

A call was made to West Midlands Fire Service at 12.54pm on Tuesday and firefighters had dealt with the blaze by 2.24pm. Plans were accepted earlier this year to develop the site, with a shop planned that would create 30 jobs. Developers wanted to demolish the front and one of the side walls to create a more 'traditional' layout for the business.

Greens funds cuts put on the agenda

A PETITION with 1,700 names, calling for Walsall Council to reconsider fund cuts towards maintaining bowling greens will be discussed on Monday.

The authority is proposing to cut £58,464 from its budget for maintaining 10 greens, which protesters say could result in a loss of community interaction and increase vandalism. The petition will be presented to councillors by Brownhills and Oak Park Bowls Club secretary David Elwell.

We are delighted to offer ALL New Clients a...

FREE

Cut & Finish
When you have ANY Colour Service!
Don't miss out, call today.

Francesco beautiful hair GROUP www.francescogroup.co.uk

17 Anchor Parade, Aldridge WS9 8QP
t: 01922 456152

T's & C's: Not valid in conjunction with any other offer or promotion. Valid for new clients only at Francesco Group Aldridge with selected team members until 28/02/17. Skin Allergy Test required 48 hours prior to colour service for all new colour clients. Appointments are subject to availability.

WindowTech Interframe Ltd

Walsall: 01922 455018
Wolverhampton: 01902 582051
24 Hr Number: 07853 248056

CALL NOW FOR HUGE DISCOUNTS THROUGHOUT JANUARY

6 Windows from £959

Victorian and Edwardian Conservatories from £3695

Doors from £325

Feel secure with our 24 years' experience and our insurance backed guarantee

View our online video @ www.windowtechinterframe.co.uk

Units 1, 2 & 9 Brickyard Road, Aldridge WS9 8SR

Improving Homes for over 24 years

The Name You CAN Trust

Trusts rake in £7m with car parking at hospitals

HOSPITAL trusts in the Black Country and Staffordshire made more than £7.4 million in parking charges last year.

Four hospital trusts in the region revealed how much they received from car park charges over the past financial year under the Freedom of Information Act.

Top of the list was The University Hospitals of North Midlands, which runs County Hospital in Stafford as well as Royal Stoke University Hospital.

The trust, which charges from £1.70 for less than an hour to £8.60 a day for parking, raked in £3.35m over the year.

It was followed by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, which runs Sandwell Hospital and City Hospital in Birmingham. It made £2,271,352 from parking – patients/visitors £1,573,201 and staff £698,151.

The trust charges £2.80 for stays of up to an hour, although it is free for the first 15 minutes. It is £5.30 for the day.

Other trusts which responded for the request of information included Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust which made £1,345,253 and Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust which made £455,000 from the parking charges.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, which runs Manor Hospital, charges £2 for the first hour, and £6 a day.

Youngsters in awards success

PUPILS from Black Country academies have been recognised for their achievements at an awards ceremony.

Pupils from Bristnall Hall Academy in Sandwell, Jubilee Academy Mossley in Walsall, and Pool Hayes Academy in Willenhall, picked up gongs. It was hosted by street dancers Jordan Banjo and Perri Kiely from Britain's Got Talent winners, Diversity.

Ellie-May Simcox from Bristnall Hall Academy won the Transformational Progress award, while Francesca Barker won the Sport award.

Kallum Moss-Swan from Jubilee Academy Mossley received the Overcoming Adversity award, while Callum Westwood from Pool Hayes Academy was also presented with the same award.

Vegan leather in the spotlight

AN animal rights charity has offered to pay for an exhibition on vegan leather at Walsall's Leather Museum.

PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) said it could help Walsall Council with looming cuts. The charity said there were alternatives to leather, including polyurethane, cork, waxed cotton, Pinatex – derived from pineapple leaves, and MuSkin, which uses mushroom caps.

Write time for presentation to mayor



Mrs Orams Hampton with the mayor

A BOOK chronicling decades of the best tales from the pens of people in Walsall has been released. Walsall Writers' Circle has marked its 50th anniversary by putting together a book called 'Fifty Years of Walsall Writers' Circle', presenting a copy to the Mayor as a gesture of thanks.

Margaret Orams Hampton, a member of Walsall Writers' Circle, met with Councillor Kath Phillips in the Mayor's Parlour to hand over a copy of the book, which contains a mix of fact, fiction and memoirs in the theme of the past fifty years in the

borough. It also includes a brief history of the circle itself, as well as a selection of past prize-winning stories by members. The group was founded at Walsall Central Library in 1966 and continues to flourish today.

Stuart Williams, vice chairman of the writers group, said: "Apart from the significance of the anniversary to the cultural life of the borough, there is also a significant link between Mrs Hampton and Councillor Phillips, who have in the past worked together at the Walsall Co-operative Society, and with the office of Mayor, since

the article which Mrs Hampton had herself written especially for the book looks at the Mayors of Walsall over the past fifty years.

"To research her piece, Mrs Hampton approached several ex-Mayors and asked them their personal views on various subjects which she then recorded."

Walsall Writers' Circle meets at the Broadway North Recovery College on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. For further information on the Circle, please see the website <http://walsallwriterscircle.webs.com/>

Vote fraud in borough sparks ID proof move

VOTERS in Walsall will need proof of ID at elections, after the borough was identified as a potential hotspot for ballot fraud.

The Government pilot scheme will require people to show ID, such as passports or driving licences, to vote in 16 areas across the country, including Walsall and Birmingham in the West Midlands, which are seen as 'vulnerable' to electoral fraud.

The areas, which also include Coventry and Derby, were identified in a 2014 report by the Electoral Commission of being at 'greater risk' of electoral fraud due to the number of offences being reported. That year West Midlands Police confirmed it was looking into 11 cases of alleged electoral fraud. Electoral fraud includes ghost voting, making false statements as a candidate and voting multiple times.

In 2010, Walsall Conservative Party member Ali Hayder Munir was jailed for three months after admitting two charges of making false applications for proxy votes at the council elections in 2008. Voters in the areas will need to take ID to polling stations to in 2018's local elections. Currently voters just need to take their polling card and tell officials their name.

Democracy

Walsall North MP David Winnick said: "I am rather cautious about it. Obviously the integrity of the polling system is crucial to our democracy and I am fine with the proposals as long as they are not counter productive in encouraging people to vote."

Council leader Sean Coughlan said he would have a conversation with the council's chief executive about the merits of taking part in the trial, adding: "My view is anything we can do to tackle electoral fraud is important."

Constitution minister Chris Skidmore has put forward the plans, which follow a report prepared in August by Sir Eric Pickles, the anti-corruption tsar and former Conservative Cabinet minister. He claimed that election fraud had been allowed to take place in Muslim communities because of 'political correctness'.

Mr Pickles warned in the report that the authorities are in a 'state of denial' and are 'turning a blind eye' to election fraud.

Mr Skidmore said: "The Government's view is that electoral fraud is unacceptable on any level. I want to protect the right of everyone to have their say and participate in our democracy."

Disney dream on way for Jordan



Young Jordan Lees, receives the cheque from fundraiser Jag Poselay, front left and Jodie Shepherd

The festive wish of a boy facing a life-changing operation has been granted after his community pulled together to send him to Disneyland.

Jordan Lees, 14, from Beechdale, suffers from cerebral palsy and is facing a daunting 10-hour operation in May for Scoliosis Curvature in his spine, which is causing him severe pain and leaving him with sores.

After hearing from Kerrie

Lees, mother of Jordan, about his dream to go to Disneyland Paris, fundraiser Jag Poselay, who also lives on the Beechdale estate, set about starting a fundraising campaign to make Jordan's dream come true.

By calling on residents in the area to give what they can, Mr Poselay managed to raise £566 for Jordan.

He then applied to the Axis Europe Foundation, who were giving

away thousands for good causes over Christmas, for help to get the rest of the money together.

When he received the call to say the company would be giving £2,000 to help Jordan get to Paris, Mr Poselay said he 'couldn't speak'.

He said: "I have got close to Jordan over the last few years, he is a lovely lad and he has really got into the Disney characters recently."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Normal births bid by hospital

PREGNANT women, as well as those considering having a baby or adding to their family, are invited to an event at Walsall Manor Hospital.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust is working with colleagues and health-care partners to promote 'normal' births, where pregnant women are encouraged and supported to deliver their babies without medical intervention wherever possible. There will be a formal launch of the trust's Maternity Normality Strategy by Sheena Byrom OBE on Monday, between 10am and 3pm on Route 122 at the hospital.

Metro affected by police car near line

MIDLAND Metro commuters faced delays after a police car was mistakenly parked too close to the line.

The car was parked along the line in the New Street/Corporation Street area in Birmingham city centre. It impacted on services to and from Wolverhampton last Thursday morning.

Midland Metro tweeted: "Due to a police car blocking the running rails, we currently have delays towards Wolverhampton." A West Midlands Police spokeswoman said: "The vehicle was moved as soon as the driver became aware of his error."

Drivers face four weeks of delays

MOTORISTS face disruption as four weeks of roadworks are set to start on Monday, January 16. Highway bosses have given the go-ahead for work to be carried out to a water main in Aldridge.

The stretch between Stubbers Green Road leading into Leighwood Road will be reduced to a one-way system.

It is a very popular route for many motorists travelling between Shelfield and Aldridge.

Extra £5 a year plan to pay for policing

WEST Midlands police chief David Jamieson has unveiled plans to raise the amount which goes to the force through council tax.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is responsible for setting the police precept – money the force receives from taxpayers. He insisted an increase of £5 per year was necessary.

Mr Jamieson said: "The public have made it clear to me that despite Government cuts they want local neighbourhood policing to be protected."

Light jazz night

THE Vintage Rhythm Collective will be joined by special guests for the next Jazz House event. It is at the Light House, at the Chubb Buildings, Wolverhampton, on Sunday, at 5.30pm. The group performs tunes from the 1920s to the 1960s. Tickets are £5 for adults with children free.

JANUARY ONLY!!! ONLY
4 x 3 metres Orangeries **£14,995**

NJN Conservatories

YOUR LOCAL EXPERT

★ Conservatories ★ Orangeries
★ Windows ★ Doors ★ Soffits ★ Fascias

Call your local expert Neil for Free friendly quotation
T: 01922 513096 M: 07521 649420
Email: neil@njnconservatories.co.uk
www.njnconservatories.co.uk

FREE QUOTATION

SHORT HEATH Dental Practice

NEW PATIENTS WELCOME
Emergencies seen the same day
Examination to include scale & polish
£18.50
You may be eligible for free treatment if you are in receipt of certain benefits, if you have had a baby in the last year, if you are 18 and in full time education or are under 18.

• Open daily 8.00am - 5pm
• 2 Female dentists - Mrs Jane Owen & Mrs Stefka Ivanova
• Tooth Whitening
• New patients welcome
• Cosmetic Dentistry - get the smile you always dreamed of
• Implants - replace those missing teeth permanently
• Denture Repairs
• Sports Mouth Guards
• White Fillings
• Braces
• Crowns, Bridges & Dentures

Special Offer on Tooth Whitening

£150
(Bring this advert with you)

NHS

2A Oaken Drive, Willenhall WV12 5NU
01922 478 893
Appointments Available Immediately!

CLICK FLOORING
Quality floors 4 less

MASSIVE STOCK CLEARANCE TO MAKE ROOM FOR NEW STOCK

LAMINATE PACKS STARTING FROM £10.00 PER PACK

WHY PAY MORE ANYWHERE ELSE?

- Laminates
- Hardwood
- Solid Wood
- Quick-Step Authorised Dealer

248 High Street, Blaxwich, Walsall WS3 3LN
01922 495525
www.clickflooringonline.co.uk
Email: info@clickflooringonline.co.uk

BLINDS
WALSALL - www.blind-deals.co.uk

BEST DEAL!
3 child safe verticals
£120
one per household offer

NO OBLIGATION HOME QUOTE

ALL PRICES INCLUDE FREE MEASURE & FITTING
HUGE CHOICE OF POPULAR FABRICS & GENEROUS SIZE RESTRICTIONS

CALL FREE contact your local advisor to see our fabric range & other available deals
0800 0214266

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



FLICKING idly through The Boys' Book of Airfix. Watching the DVD of Swallows and Amazons. Sipping a chilled cocktail of sloe gin and bubbly. Whatever they tell you, the real joy of presents is in the receiving.

AN old friend and I usually exchange drinkable Xmas gifts so I was surprised to get two parcels from him this year, one containing a belt with a particularly fiddly and irritating buckle. A note explained: "I bought two of these and they are rubbish, so you can have one." It is, as they say, the thought that counts.

THE year ends, as it began, with a furious row about how much foreign aid Britain sends to relatively wealthy countries or states run by despots. Here's a simple way forward. Let's agree that not a penny of UK aid goes to any country with either a nuclear industry or a space programme. As for the world's dictators who seem to use our money to buy themselves huge limousines, let's at least cut out the middle men and send the money directly to Mercedes-Benz.

AT last, an optimist in the ranks of the elite breaks cover. Did you not punch the air with joy to hear the former Bank of England Governor, Lord Mervyn King, speaking of the good things that leaving the EU will bring? While not dismissing the difficulties, he declared: "There are many opportunities and I think we should look at it in a much more self-confident way than



either side is approaching it at present. Being out of what is a pretty unsuccessful European Union – particularly in the economic sense – gives us opportunities as well as obviously great political difficulties." Too many pundits assume that Britain is a spent force which needs the EU for support. The reverse is true. Look around you. Britain has a workforce of 32 million and the fifth biggest economy in the world. We are a huge, busy and potent nation whose power and influence have been limited by a failed 40-year experiment in being governed from Brussels. As that nice Mr Blair put it, things can only get better. And this time it's true.

PS: Just between you and me, I still fear that when we are finally declared to be Out of the EU, it will look suspiciously like In.

'TIS the season to flog furniture. Here's a party game designed to make the most of those infuriating, interminable end-of-year adverts for sideboards, carpets and whatever. Taking turns, each player has 30 seconds with the TV remote-control. The aim, switching between the commercial-TV ad breaks, is to see how many times you can catch the word "sofa."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Petition over cuts to advice bureau

CITIZENS Advice staff have launched a petition urging council bosses to re-think funding cuts which they say will put the service at risk.

The petition has already gathered more than 100 signatures, with organisers aiming to reach 1,500 to ensure it is debated amongst Walsall Council bosses.

Funding from Walsall Council is set to be reduced by £132,458 in

2017/18. Proposals include cutting the core grant year-on-year by 20 per cent for the next three years and removing funding from GP Outreach surgeries so clients with mobility or health conditions will be unable to access the service.

Rebecca Floyd, organiser of the petition, said: "Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau has been providing free, independent, impartial and confidential

advice to those who work or reside in Walsall since 1939.

"For the past 75 years we have supported clients with emergency and crisis issues, assisted some of the most vulnerable people in our community and those who just need to be supported and informed of their options.

"If this proposal goes ahead this will put at risk the existence of one

of the oldest and busiest Citizens Advice in the country."

Councillor Doug James, who represents Darlaston North, has said: "The information and advice given by staff at these centres has been providing members of our community with priceless help for decades.

"People need to support this petition because this is a service we cannot afford to lose."

Target litterbugs with increased patrols, call

Report by Jordan Harris

CALLS have been made to increase the number of areas patrolled by litter watchdogs in Walsall just months after their introduction to the borough.

Private enforcement firm 3GS came in to the borough at the end of September to clamp down on environmental offences, as well as dog fouling and fly-tipping.

Nearly £1,000 worth of fines were dished out in just over a month as Walsall Council looked to clamp down on littering and fly-tipping, which had long been a concern for residents and community leaders.

Now Councillor Ian Shires has asked for a review to be carried out to look at whether officers can be spread wider across the borough in an attempt to tackle 'hot-spot' locations and persistent tipplers.

The Willenhall councillor added that the cost of cleaning up after fly-tippers adds up to 'hundreds of thousands a year' which he said prevents the council from putting that money into vital front line services.

Respect

Councillor Shires said: "The council spends hundreds of thousands of pounds each year cleaning up behind dirty people who have little or no respect for the place. Many of our green spaces are the target for fly-tippers. Our streets and shopping areas are covered in litter.

"That's hundreds of thousands of pounds that the council can't spend on keeping libraries open and providing vital front line services to the elderly, young and the sick at a time when the Westminster Government has committed to reducing the support it gives the Walsall by a further £86 million over the next four years.

"The council should be going on the offensive by making examples of those who continue to litter and fly-tip." Earlier this year the council stated around 30 tons of rubbish were dumped in the borough every week.

Ofsted joy for nursery's youngsters



Children celebrate Fulbrook Nursery School being rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted in its latest report

A WALSALL nursery has been rated outstanding by Ofsted for the third consecutive time. Fullbrook Nursery School retained its outstanding rating in a report released earlier last month.

Inspector Usha Devi said: "Teaching has strengthened since the previous inspection. The activities that the staff plan effectively sustain children's concentration because they are suitably challenging and inspiring.

"After the last inspection, leaders were specifically asked to focus on Pakistani boys and their understanding of numbers. The information about children's learning and examples of children's work confirm that any variations between the achievements of different children diminish by the end of Nursery, including in

mathematics. The safety of children is paramount. Staff make sure that children are well supervised and that the children learn how to keep themselves safe. Through their regular interactions, staff effectively encourage children to be friendly and to be gentle with their hands and feet."

Headteacher Andrina Flinders said: "I am so proud of the staff and children, Fullbrook Nursery School really is a very special place, we work very hard to provide an inspiring fun-filled early education.

"We are keen to share our success with families across Walsall. We have a few spaces left for both 2 and 3 year old and from September we will be offering 30 free hours of childcare for working families."

Patients not keeping up with hi-tech advances

ACCORDING to new research, thousands of West Midlands patients are in the dark about digital health advances that could save them time and the cash-strapped NHS money.

Exclusive online YouGov research for Pharmacy2U found half of all adults, 51 per cent, were unaware that electronic prescriptions are now available at most GP surgeries in England.

In the West Midlands, 593 GP surgeries offer the service yet 40 per cent of residents have never heard of the service.

According to the latest NHS Digital data, 87 per cent GP surgeries in England have now switched on the NHS Electronic Prescription Service – meaning GPs can digitally send prescriptions direct to pharmacies. It is designed to speed up the process and gives patients across the country access to new services, including new online home delivery pharmacies.

Daniel Lee, chief operating officer and superintendent pharmacist at Pharmacy2U, said: "Efficiency savings must be found if the NHS is to continue to provide future generations with the same level of care as we enjoy today.

"Despite ditching paper in most areas of their lives, our survey shows many people have been slow to catch on to the benefits of new digital services. It may sound like a small thing, but the convenience of a fully managed prescription service – with deliveries direct to your door – can be a huge time-saver."

633 sign petition on Chase rail line

MORE than 600 people have now signed a petition calling for more carriages on the Chase line in Staffordshire. Cannock Chase MP Amanda Milling started the petition urging London Midland to put on more carriages on the route between Rugeley, Walsall and Birmingham.

Passengers have complained of severe overcrowding, cancelled trains and insufficient services recently.

And earlier this month, Ms Milling asked the Government to outline what steps it will take to penalise poor performing train operators. The petition says the service is made worse by a huge increase in seasonal staff at Amazon in Rugeley in the autumn.

It reads: "Peak-time trains are often only formed of two carriages, yet many off-peak trains have three."

Dentist's premises ransacked by raiders

A DENTIST'S in Brownhills has been broken into and had its premises ransacked. Raiders targeted the Brownhills Dental Practice, on Brownhills High Street, over the Christmas holidays, some time between 5pm on December 23 and 8am on December 28.

SERVICE & REPAIRS YOU CAN TRUST
APPROVED BY MOTORCODES

www.UNIPARTWALSALL.co.uk

CAR CARE CENTRE

FREE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY

Interim Service & MOT £89

MOT WHILE U WAIT £25
FREE RE-TEST

FULL ANNUAL AND WARRANTY SERVICE FROM £130

DIAGNOSTICS AND WARNING LAMP FAULTS

MOTORHOME SERVICE AND MOT

Brakes Clutches Exhausts Cambelt Air Con

EXPRESS MOTORISTS CENTRE

146 Bridgeman Street, Walsall WS2 9PG
(01922) 632018

Concept BLINDS

UP TO 50% OFF ALL BLINDS

Vertical & Roller Blinds
New season fabrics now available

Child Safety Features Fitted Free of Charge

5 YEAR GUARANTEE

Also available

- Romans • Pleated
- Conservatory Roof Blinds
- Wood Venetians
- Venetian Blinds
- Curved Tracks for Bay Windows

FREEPHONE 0800 5875279
Open Seven Days a Week
0121 429 3169

FREE Home Quote. FAST Delivery

Mohammed Salam

Hi, My name is Mohammed and I am a personal trainer at Pure Gym in Walsall. I have a passion for helping people reach personal goals and helping them through the complete process.

My Specialities

- Injury rehabilitation
- Wedding preparation
- Weight loss

Benefits training with me:-

Master training techniques, fun but rewarding work outs and excellent results

Contact: **07799 777084**
Email: info@as-fitness.com

Express & Star

FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:

- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the image and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk

MP hits out over lack of respect from pub owners

AN MP has labelled the owner of two derelict pubs in Walsall as 'irresponsible' as the council confirmed it was looking to prosecute.

Walsall North MP David Winnick has previously called for the owners of The Eagle and Leathern Bottle pubs in Bloxwich to be named and shamed after showing 'complete disrespect' and ignoring a council order to have the sites cleaned up.

He said: "Regarding the former Leathern Bottle and Eagle public house sites on the Mossley estate, Bloxwich, I have been informed by Paul Sheehan, the chief executive, the planning officers and the council's legal services are continuing to discuss bringing prosecutions to the owners of both these sites.

"I am informed the legal process can take some months to progress.

"In a letter I sent to the council, I suggested the work of clearing up the sites, particularly the rubble left after the demolition of the Leathern Bottle could be undertaken by the council. And afterwards the owners could be charged accordingly.

"In response, I am informed that this could be done. But it would have to be subject to the outcome of any legal proceedings."

He added: "The sheer irresponsibility of the owners of both sites demonstrates that they are simply unfit to be involved in property development of any kind. They have shown complete irresponsibility, bearing in mind that clearing the rubble would only take one day at least.

Inquest on hold for police probe

AN inquest has been put on hold after police launched an investigation into the death of a man in mysterious circumstances.

The inquest opened on Philip Pathurst, of Bray Street, Walsall, at Oldbury Coroners' Court.

Mr Pathurst died from brain injuries on November 26 at Manor Hospital after being found unconscious at his home by a friend days earlier.

West Midlands Police are investigating the cause of his brain injuries, carrying out enquiries with known associates and scouring CCTV footage.

Pc Dan Jarrett said: "We hope to have carried out all of the relevant enquiries by the new year."

The inquest will continue on March 1 2017.

Actors are back on the Grange

THE Grange Players return to the stage in Walsall in the new year.

Holmes for the Holidays by Ken Ludwig is being staged at The Grange Playhouse, Broadway North, from January 11 to 21 at 7.45pm.

Action call as weight limit flouted



Stuart Marshall of Harden Road

A RESIDENT wants authorities to clamp down on lorry drivers he claims are using his road illegally.

Stuart Marshall claims drivers regularly flout a 7.5 tonne limit near his home in Harden Road, and is calling for a stop.

Mr Marshall, aged 42, said safety was bad on Harden Road but even worse at the nearby junction of Lichfield Road and Station Road, in Rushall.

He claims a Walsall Council bollard meant to prevent traffic careering onto a pavement has been smashed

into by drivers who should not even be using the road.

Mr Marshall said: "The maximum penalty (for exceeding the weight limit on the road) is a £1,000 fine. And the council say they have got no money?"

"The main thing is the road is so narrow (at the Lichfield Road junction), someone is going to get hurt there. If you get two lorries going opposite each other, they mount the pavement."

Walsall Council said the police should intervene to stop the traffic

travelling down the route. Councillor Lee Jeavons, for regeneration, said: "Weight restrictions are there for good reasons. A commercial environmental weight restriction enforceable by the police is in place on Station Road to compel HCV (Heavy Commercial Vehicle) drivers to use more appropriate strategic routes.

"Any observed contravention can be reported to the police requesting action."

West Midlands Police said the lorry concerns were a matter for Mr Marshall's neighbourhood policing team.

1,000 children tested for sexual diseases

MORE than 1,000 children have been tested for sexually transmitted diseases in Walsall since 2013. Figures also reveal dozens have been diagnosed with HIV.

Children as young as 10 have been tested in the last four years while figures showed the problem of under age sex has worsened throughout the period.

A former borough health chief has described the numbers as 'surprising' and called for an urgent investigation into the 'tragic' revelation that 93 children between the ages of 13 and 15 have tested positive for HIV.

The figures have been revealed by a Freedom of Information submitted to Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust.

The results showed that between the start of 2013 and March 2016, a total of 1,095 children under the age of 16 had been tested for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

Out of those 10 fell into the age category of 10 to 12, 51 were aged 13, 256 were aged 14 and 777 were 15-years-old.

The figures showed the number of children being tested had increased over the period with a total of 233 in 2013, 368 in 2014 and 428 in 2015.

Education

The initial figures for 2016 indicate there were 66 tests between January and March. These display the lowest average tests-per-month - 22 - since 2013. During the overall period 57 children tested positive for an STD.

Walsall Councillor Rose Martin, former public health leader, said sex education needed to improve for children. She said: "It surprises me we are still having such a lot of children who seem to have under age sex.

"Children need to be well educated and made aware of the risks to make informed choices for the future. We all need to help each other to address this, parents, schools, the NHS."

Separate figures for HIV revealed 93 13-to-15-year-olds had tested positive since 2014 - none in 2013.

The most common cause of transmitting the disease is through unprotected sex, but it can also be passed on through use of contaminated syringes or from mother to baby during pregnancy, birth or breastfeeding.

Councillor Martin described the numbers as 'alarming'. Council chiefs were unable to comment.



Slimming World consultants Kierston Kelly and Julie Pearse meet television presenter Stephen Mulhern

TV star praises 'magic touch'

TWO slimming consultants from Cannock have 'the magic touch' when it comes to weight loss, according to TV's Stephen Mulhern.

Kierston Kelly and Julie Pearse were delighted to get a chance to meet him at the Slimming World Awards in Birmingham, which he co-hosted with the organisation's founder and chair Margaret Miles-Bramwell.

Kierston, who runs a group at the Senior Citizens Centre in Great Wyrley every Tuesday, said: "I couldn't be prouder of our members. They've lost fantastic amounts of weight throughout 2016.

Stephen, who presents Catchphrase, Britain's Got More Talent and Big Star's Little Stars, said: "I'm known for my magic tricks, and there was definitely magic in the air. People like Kierston and Julie are clearly very important."

Julie, who runs a group at Cheslyn Hay Working Men's Club on Thursdays, said: "Lots of people will be making resolutions to lose weight.

"I'd love anyone who's thinking about losing weight this January to join us."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Industrial units to become gym

A NEW gym will be built in Willenhall across two industrial units after plans were approved. The plans, submitted by Robert Morgan, will see two units at Wilkes Street transformed into a gym.

Mr Morgan said: "The gym will offer fitness classes for all and boxing classes will be available for children to help build confidence. I will liaise with the surgery and healthcare centre behind me, offering them a timetable to help with rehabilitation patients.

"Once I build a clientele there will be room for employment."

Ofsted rating joy for school

STAFF at a Walsall school are celebrating after being given a 'Good' rating by Ofsted. St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, located at Blue Lane East, Walsall, has been given the rating by the education watchdog.

Executive head teacher, Mrs Jean Richmond, said: "We are delighted with the outcome which is a tribute to the commitment, perseverance and care of all who work in the school.

"The biggest thank you and well-done must be given to our pupils who were an absolute credit to both the school and their families.

Stepping back to vintage dance

THE music of the 1940s and 50s will come alive next month as part of a special event.

The 40s/50s Vintage Party takes place on January 13 from 6pm till 11pm at The Light Cinema, Wolverhampton Street, Waterfront Way, Walsall.

The event is free to attend and will take place in The Green Room where there will be live music, cocktails and best dressed competitions. For more information, call 01922 841344.

Grocer's shop set to be estate agents

A BUILDING housing a greengrocers will be used as an estate agents after a change of use application was given the green light.

Walsall Council formally approved the plan to use the building on Beacon Road in Great Barr differently.

It was previously the premises which housed the Melon Cauli Greengrocers.

It will be open from 9am until 5.30pm from Mondays to Fridays and from 9am until 4pm on Saturdays.

Pitch in for sport

WALKING football sessions are set to start at a community leisure centre in the new year. Penkridge Leisure Centre will host the sessions on its 3G football pitch, starting January 9 at 6pm. Participation will cost £3 per person and is for adults only. For details call 01785 714152

ADVERTISEMENT

Has Your Double Glazing Steamed Up?

Established for over a decade Cloudy2Clear windows have become a leading company for glass replacement. Issues with double glazing can often be gradual and may only be noticed during a clear sunny day or during the winter. A failed glass unit may no longer provide you with the protection you need or be energy efficient. Why not spend a few minutes checking your home to see if you have any

failed double glazing? If you act now you can avoid these problems.

Now, you may think you need to replace the whole window including the frames and all the hardware, however Cloudy2Clear have come up with a simple and cost saving solution... Just replace the glass!!

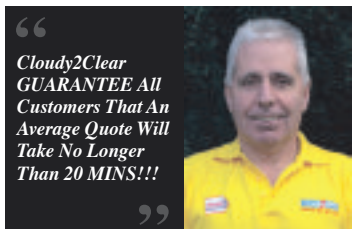
If you see condensation in your windows just visit our website or give us a call on 0800 61 21 118. We will send out our highly

experienced engineers for a free no obligation quote. A Cloudy2Clear quote takes on average no longer than 20 minutes. Once the quote is completed, we will sit down with you and explain the problem and tell you how we can fix it. With years of experience Cloudy2Clear have a wealth of knowledge and are recognised as a Which Trusted Trader, plus our work is backed

by an industry leading 25 year guarantee. Cloudy2Clear also replace faulty locks handles and hinges on all windows and doors.

Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is Brian Stanley and he services Walsall & the surrounding areas.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118.



Cloudy2Clear Windows... Service With A Smile!

Cloudy2Clear Are A... Which? Trusted Trader	All Glazing Backed By Our 25 YEAR GUARANTEE
Priority Freephone 0800 61 21 118	www.cloudy2clear.com
Broken Or Damaged Windows? Faulty Locks, Handles, Hinges?	

IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Shutting shop on spirit of Christmas

THERE is a great story about legendary Wolverhampton shopkeeper William Snape, who kept the famous tea and coffee emporium opposite this newspaper's office in Queen Street.

One Christmas Eve, sometime around the late 19th century, Mr Snape's assistant, a young boy called Albert, asked if there would be any chance of finishing work early. It was Christmas after all.

Mr Snape paused for thought, and asked the youngster if everywhere was tidy? Albert insisted it was.

"I don't think so," replied the boss as he took a flying kick at a bag of coffee beans, scattering them all over the floor.

Now I'm sure we're all glad those sort of employment practices are a thing of the past. However, I can't help but think that a bit of no-nonsense Victorian discipline wouldn't go amiss on a shop assistant I encountered over Christmas.

Now, admittedly 5.53pm on Christmas Eve is a bit last-minute. Well last seven minutes actually, but you get the point. However, the sign in the window said the shop – a very well-known high street retailer – would be open until 6pm, so why would you doubt it?

Eventually, a grey-haired lady came to the door with the greeting: "What's the problem?"

I pointed to the sign saying open until 6pm, and she replied: "You don't want to take any notice of that, it's Christmas Eve." I suggested it might be a good idea to advertise the correct opening times, and that it was rather poor service.

Grey-haired lady replied: "It's Christmas Eve, we've got families to be with, so on yer bike." And a happy new year to you, madam.

□□□

CONGRATULATIONS to Stourbridge FC for making football history as the lowest-ranked club to reach the third-round of the FA Cup.

Manager Gary Hackett has criticised the major broadcasters for overlooking his team's achievement, prompting optician Mark Moran to contact me with a solution.

"Can you run a story about a Stourbridge-born optician who is offering free specs to BBC staff to help correct their short-sightedness?" he asks.

He suggests rose-tinted lenses for Alan Shearer, Gary Linker and Ian Wright over the way they wax lyrical about big-money sides like Chelsea.

□□□

SPRING will see the launch of the new 12-sided £1 coin, designed by Walsall schoolboy David Pearce, and the old coin will cease to be legal tender in October.

Now have a look through your change. How many shiny new £1 coins are there that have that have been minted in the past year or so? And they will all be melted down by the autumn. It's a good thing the country is awash with money, isn't it?



The mammoth Carsington Water reservoir in Derbyshire



The Elan Valley reservoir serves the Midlands



Lake Vyrnwy with its stone-built dam, built in the 1880s

Water way to tap into a precious resource

There is much, much more to Severn Trent Water than the stuff that comes out of your tap, as TOBY NEAL explains

GLUG, glug, glug. All that work, all that effort – and all down the drain!

But as these stunning images show, there is much more to Severn Trent Water than the stuff that comes out of your tap.

It is an operation that stretches from the valleys and reservoirs of mid Wales, to not far short of the North Sea – Scunthorpe to be precise – on the other side of the British mainland, and as far south as the Bristol Channel.

It involves buildings and structures of beauty and distinction, and some other buildings and structures where aesthetics play second fiddle to functionality.

Severn Trent has released the photos to update its portfolio of corporate images and to bring home the range of its work, showing off its key assets across its vast patch including reservoirs, water treatment works, sewage treatment works, and anaerobic digestion plants.

Spectacular

Those reservoirs are spectacular features of the Welsh landscape blending so smoothly with nature that you might almost forget they are man-made as the red kites and buzzards soar overhead.

Llyn Clywedog, west of Llanidloes, is one of the company's most striking visitor sites, with a 72 metre (236ft) high dam, which is one of Britain's largest concrete structures, holding back 50,000 megalitres of water. The area is rich in wildlife, and it is a great place for those wanting to get into the great outdoors to walk, sail – there's a members-only sailing club – and fish, at the popular trout fishery.

It was created through flooding 615 acres of agricultural land, including farms, in a four-year project which ended in 1967.

It is not directly linked to the water supply



A Severn Trent worker looks over the spectacular Clywedog Reservoir

network. Its role is to regulate the flow of water to the River Severn during the winter, and to ensure a minimum flow during the summer.

Despite its name, Lake Vyrnwy, west of Llanfyllin, is a man-made reservoir just under 12 miles long. In creating it in late Victorian times, the village of Llanfyllin was submerged and the villagers moved out – including the remains of the dead in the churchyard.

A new settlement was created lower down the valley by the Liverpool Corporation. In some dry summers the ghostly remains of the lost village of Llanfyllin can be seen as the water level falls. Operational in 1891, the lake was built to supply drinking water to Liverpool. The dam was the first large masonry dam built in Britain.

At its maximum depth, the lake is 216ft deep. When water goes down the drain of your

sink, or down the toilet, it may seem to be the end of the process so far as consumers are concerned, but it is just part of the endless cycle for Severn Trent.

Settled sewage is treated by special bacteria which turns it into carbon dioxide, water, or nitrogen. Water is cleaned up and returned to watercourses. The firm treats more than 1.4 billion litres of waste water each day.

Where there's muck, there's, er, energy. Many of the firm's sewage treatment sites have engines which produce power from the digestion process of human waste.

As well as treating waste from sewers, it also collects surface water or rainwater and returns it to the watercourses.

Where does the water come from in the first place? That's a bit of a chicken-and-egg question, but the sky, obviously, but more specifically from a variety of sources – bore-

holes, rivers, and reservoirs. A third of drinking water supplies come from groundwater, which Severn Trent said is the same as most bottled water. Most of the groundwater comes from sandstone aquifers in the West Midlands and Nottinghamshire and is supplemented by smaller limestone aquifers in the Cotswolds and Derbyshire.

As water reached through boreholes has filtered down through layers of rock over many years, it usually only needs minimal treatment. Two thirds of drinking water comes from rivers and reservoirs and this water goes through a number of processes before being fit to drink.

First it is pumped into flocculation tanks to be clarified, then it goes to filtration tanks. Next stop is tanks containing activated carbon granules, which remove any remaining chemicals. Finally chlorine is added to disinfect the water, which is now ready for distribution.

Where does the magic happen? In Shropshire there are major sewage treatment works at Coalport, Rushmoor, and Monkmoor, and a major water treatment works at Shelton. There's a major water treatment works just outside Severn Trent's patch, in the Elan Valley, which is Welsh Water's turf.

Seriously

Climate change is taken seriously and Severn Trent Water has six hydro turbines installed on four sites, producing around 1.7 MW, which is three per cent of its self-generated electricity from water. Wind turbines have been constructed at some Severn Trent Water sites and provides electricity equivalent to supplying about 1,500 homes annually.

Some folk will remember the company when it was known as Severn Trent Water Authority, formed in 1974 as a regional, state-owned water authority based in Birmingham. By the mid-1980s, however, the government had decided to privatise the water industry.

The 10 water authorities in England and Wales passed into private ownership in 1989. Severn Trent Plc is the parent company for Severn Trent Water, a private company. Over the years Severn Trent Plc has built up a portfolio of companies, known as Severn Trent Services.

Cannock Fireplaces & Stoves

YOUR PERFECT FIRESIDE SOLUTION
Branches in Cannock, Stafford and Wolverhampton

SALE NOW ON!

173B Walsall Road, Bridgtown, Cannock WS11 0JH Next to The Lighting Bug

Tel: 01543 898585 www.cannockfireplaces.co.uk

OPEN
7 DAYS A WEEK



Hopes on fighting traffic is off-track

CONGESTION and poor public transport are estimated to cost the West Midlands economy £2.2bn a year as well as generating ill health through dangerous levels of pollution. Andy Street, Conservative candidate for the West Midlands Mayor, has got it very wrong. His emphasis on rail and metro networks will not prevent traffic congestion on the busiest area of motorway in Europe.

Residents and motorists living near the M6/M5 links and corridor know only too well of the misery congestion brings to the quality of their lives and business. Juggernauts, road haulage numbers are not going to transfer to rail or metro.

Stupidity is nearer to europhile

LORD Kerr, the ardent Europhile, who calls the British people stupid, is partly right, but the ones that could be, are the top dogs in Government, such as Lord Kerr himself, who do not feel the impact of mass immigration, because they do not come into contact with them as ordinary people do.

They do not have to wait for hours in hospitals' A&E departments, do not have a schooling problem for their children, and do not have to go to the back of the queue when trying to rent a council house as the indigenous people do, because immigrants are given priority over them, and we wonder why some people are racist.

The people in power in the UK are paid high salaries, but live by huge perks paid for by the taxpayers and do not need to touch their salaries, unlike the ordinary working people.

At the moment, many councils are cutting services to its people because of lack of funding by central Government. Why, when the UK is so short of money, are we still giving away £12bn pounds in foreign aid and spending about £60bn on the HS2 disruptive railway line which is supposed to bring trade to the Midlands and the North.

B J SMITH
Walsall

Over the last year we have had to endure the closure of Junction 9 for slip road and bridge repairs. We are now anticipating years of delays as a result of investment in Junction 10 which is very welcome but, the delivery means short term pain. Making the toll road free and public would immediately offer relief and is supported by both business and motorists.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

It's not good for business

£750,000 salaries for six directors – Walsall Council.

If I were a businessman investing £750,000 in a product, company or concept I would want to be absolutely clear that my investment would have to be exceptionally profitable not just at the end of 12 months but for many years to come.

Walsall Council's investment of the above amount for six interim and part-time directors appears indulgent at best and frivolous at worst.

I would like to know the answer to the following questions:

What specific expertise will these directors bring to Walsall Council? Will Walsall ratepayers have knowledge of their aims and objectives? How will these aims and objectives be measured? What tangible benefits can Walsall ratepayers expect at the end of the combined directors' 12 months contract and subsequent years following?

GERRY MAHONEY
Walsall

Chiefs sitting on problem

SO when did Walsall councillors come out of their ivory towers and last walk around the town centre and see anti-social behaviour and drinking on the benches in the town?

On a normal day, say between 10am and 4pm the people you will see sitting on those seats will be shoppers taking a break, workers eating their lunch, elderly meeting up with their friends. My late husband and I used to come to Walsall, I would sit on the benches while he went shopping by his self knowing I was okay chatting to other people. If more seats are removed, where are people going to take a break?

M T BARKER
Walsall

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

walsall.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Support for towns to make a break for it

I FULLY support my friend and colleague Cllr Stephen Simkins, Bilston East with his view that local people are 'fed up' with their councils. Both Bilston and Darlaston should stand up for their towns and go their own way.

Listening to the opinions of people from every walk of life should be an integral part of democracy and it is clear many people feel let down by both Wolverhampton City Council and Walsall Council.

Local services are not happening at a level local people are satisfied with. Investment in our towns is low.

Although talking heads have blamed globalisation, the 2008 bankers crash, austerity, Brexit and foreigners for all our ills, our sense of place and pride on our streets comes from more local concerns. Despite all the hot air at both councils there has been no genuine transfer of power or resources to local control to either Bilston or Darlaston.

The sharp elbowed people of Tetterhall have moved toward local control. It's time for Bilston and Darlaston to once again stand up and bring back local town councils. Let's face it when the lights from the betting shops on your High Street age brighter than those from your Library you've got problems!

People in Darlaston and Bilston aren't being left behind we are just receiving poor services and an unfair slice of council resources. Local people are witnessing what resources we have being decided on by people who have never been our side of James Bridge.

Local people want pride back on our streets, back in our diverse communities and reassurances about our traditions such as our British Legion parades and libraries.

CLLR DOUG JAMES
Walsall

PVCu Direct



Suppliers and Installers of:-

•Windows •Doors •Conservatories •Patio Doors •Bi-Fold Doors
•Garage Conversions •Car Ports •Canopies •Garage Doors

•Fascias, Soffits and Guttering

**Rehau 70mm Profile
Internally Glazed
Fensa Registered**

No Salesmen

OAP Discounts

A+ Rated Windows

20th year in Business

Family Run Business

Secured by Design

Experienced Fitters

Tel: 01922 401425



TOP QUALITY PRODUCTS AT REALISTIC PRICES!

www.pvcudirect.co.uk pvcudirect@hotmail.co.uk

HEAD OFFICE

Unit 1, Croxstalls Close,
Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2XT
Tel: 0800 917 5266
Fax: 01922 475719

SHOWROOM

34 Portland Road
Aldridge
Walsall WS9 8PZ
Tel: 01922 744306

SALES OFFICE

154c High Street
Bloxwich
Walsall WS3 3JT
Tel: 0800 917 5266

PELSALL
Windows & Glass Ltd

Established in 1989

Wishing all our customers a Happy New Year

Call us now

01922 644226

info@pelsallwindows.co.uk

A MEMBER OF



REGISTERED
MEMBER NO.31948

*Celebrating
28
Years
of service*

**Quality
Products at
affordable
prices**

FREE QUOTES

**Suppliers and installers
of high quality energy
efficient PVCu products**

TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME



70mm internally beaded sculptured profile
28mm double glazed unit
Full Maintenance & repair service on UPVC
windows and doors
Double Glazed Units fitted the same day



**We will
now be open
on Saturdays
10am-2pm**



**10 YEAR INSURANCE
BACKED GUARANTEE
NO PRESSURE SELLING**

**Rollingmill Street
Walsall WS2 9EQ**

www.pelsallwindows.co.uk

Essington Mobility

Local service you can rely on

www.essingtonmobility.co.uk

Professional, Personal & Local

"LOW PRICES & EXPERT SERVICE"



**STAIRLIFTS
RENT FOR £10/wk***

Rapid fitting

**New Stairlifts
from
£995**



01922 23 25 27

105 Green Lane, Leamore. WS3 2BN 50 High Street, Brownhills. WS8 6EL

*Subject to survey, installation charge and minimum rental period



Four great leisure centres

Choose your package:

- **All inclusive membership**
£25 per month includes swimming, gym, classes and health suite
- **Move it members**
£15 per month for swimming and gym (restricted access to gyms between 5-8pm Monday to Friday)
Restrictions do not apply at Walsall Gala, Darlaston Pool or specialist sessions.
- **Family annual**
£365 all inclusive price includes swimming, gym, classes and health suite for all members of the household (two adults and up to four children under 16 years)
Children must be aged 11-15 years (14-15 years at Gala and Darlaston) to use the gym and must be accompanied by a paying adult. The minimum age for the health suite entry is 16 years. Age restrictions apply to classes – please see programme for details.

Available at:

Bloxwich Active Living Centre
Tel: 01922 652900

Darlaston Swimming Pool
Tel: 01922 652255

Oak Park Active Living Centre
Tel: 01922 652266

Walsall Gala Swimming and Fitness Centre
Tel: 01922 653150

www.walsall.gov.uk/leisure

Traders abandon stalls as officers raid market

MORE than £30,000 worth of counterfeit goods were seized during a raid at Walsall's Bescot Market – with some traders abandoning their stalls as officers approached.

The raid, which took place on the Sunday before Christmas, followed on from reports made to Walsall Council that 'fake goods' were regularly sold at the popular market.

Police and trading standards officers swooped on stalls selling fake make-up items, bags, trainers and more.

As officers approached traders to ask about the items, several stallholders ran away abandoning their stalls and goods at the same time.

Market vehicles were also examined by Trading Standards, as traders had been seen rapidly removing goods from sale and then transferring them between vans.

Branded

Intelligence has already been shared by the Police, Trading Standards and the Anti Counterfeiting Group to trace any traders who left the scene.

Police and council officers then seized a wide range of fake goods from the market place, including large quantities of scent up for sale under branded names like Kylie, Calvin Klein, Thierry Mugler, Jimmy Choo, Miss Dior and Paco Rabanne.

Fake make-up brands masquerading as 'Mac' and 'Nars', along with boxed sets of cosmetics were also removed.

Other items taken were copies of Ralph Lauren and Louis Vuitton leather belts and bags, imitation trainers and Armani, Boss and North Face clothes. A number of cigarette lighters and around 100 pouches of hand roll-



Some of the goods which were seized at Bescot Market recently

ing tobacco were also seized. The total street value of the goods is estimated to be in excess of £30,000.

Councillor Julie Fitzpatrick, spokesman for Regulatory Services said: "Any tobacco products sold on markets must be treated by customers with extreme caution as their con-

tents and source of manufacture are often unknown. Counterfeiters do not care about the consequences of their actions on customers, legitimate businesses, or the local economy." A similar raid took place in 2011, which saw 2,000 counterfeit goods with a street value of £20,000 seized.



Specialists in Bespoke Oak, Pine, Painted and Reclaimed Furniture
A huge choice of quality Furniture in our fantastic two storey showroom



Heritage painted reclaimed range



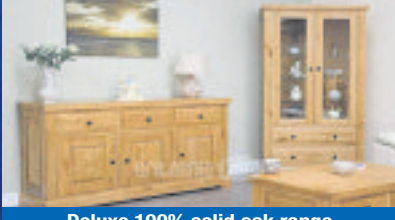
Farmhouse traditional oak range



Lisbon Painted Range- Coming Soon!



Industrial range



Deluxe 100% solid oak range



Zenn range made from 100% solid oak

Buy direct and save ££££ - In store or shop online

Shop online: www.britanniapine.co.uk **Visit our ebay shop:** handcraftedfurnitureuk

Britannia Pine, Unit 9B Watling Street, Business Park, Cannock, Staffordshire WS11 9XG

Tel: 01543 379888

Email: info@britanniapine.co.uk

Opening hours: Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm; Sundays & Bank Holidays 10am - 4pm

www.britanniapine.co.uk

USE YOUR LOFT!

Bison
Loft Ladders

Access your loft safely and easily with Bison loft stairs. A "gas" strut mechanism requiring just fingertip control makes opening and closing your loft stairs exceptionally easy.

- Fully manufactured by us in the Midlands
- Free Survey
- 'Bison' loft ladders, only available from us
- Full 4 year parts & labour guarantee
- The only product available with a safety handle in the loft
- Fitted in approx 2 hours (including making the opening larger)
- **NEW:** Now available in white no painting required*
- **NEW:** Now complete with "comfort" feet to protect carpets and wooden floors.

£395
Special offer for limited time
£299
(incl VAT)
Quote Ref ZZ

Safety hand rail Unique to Bison

Over 10,000
Installations

NEW: Long Safety Side Handles*

*at extra cost

We also fit loft flooring, lighting and roof windows. All major credit cards accepted

theloftstairscompany

The Loft Stairs Company, Unit 60, Altham Industrial Estate, Shrewsbury SY4 4UG

Visit our website www.theloftstairscompany.co.uk

Freephone 0800 389 1281

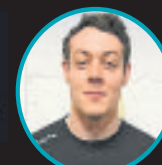
or mobile friendly 01743 761499

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

- Bronze package includes:
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
 - 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
 - Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
 - 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
 - We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk



Lewis Gaffney

Hi, my name is Lewis and I am a personal trainer and sports therapist, I'm based in Pure Gym, Walsall and it is absolutely safe to say that I truly love what I do and how I can change peoples lives for the better!

My Specialities

- Weight Loss
- Strength and conditioning
- Injury and prevention

Benefits training with me:-

A fun but tough workout, learn correct training techniques, learn why we do, learn about the foods you need to be eating to help you towards your goal.

Contact: **07767 614 297**

Email: lewisgaffneyfitness@hotmail.com

Express & Star

FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE



*All prices are subject to VAT

Putting fly-tippers in village frame



A CCTV camera, four of which will be focusing on the problem of fly-tipping in and around Aldridge

CCTV cameras have been set up in Aldridge to combat the village's 'big problem'. Walsall Council has confirmed there are more than 20 ongoing cases with all but two concerning rubbish dumped in Aldridge or neighbouring Barr Beacon. The authority has declared 'good evidence' had been secured from the cameras and two prosecutions due. It has also been confirmed that nearly £5,000 has been spent on purchasing four new cameras due to their success. John Morris, Aldridge and Beacon area manager, said: "Our current capability of cameras is, in the majority, deployed in the north east of the borough where there is a big fly-tipping problem. We currently have more than 20 fly-tipping cases being investigated where good evidence from these cameras has been gathered. "All but two have been committed in the Aldridge and Barr Beacon area. We have two court cases pending - both from the Aldridge area. Aldridge & Beacon area partnerships have funded Walsall Council's Community Protection team £4,800 to enable them to purchase four new covert cameras."

Last chance for drunken woman who stole phone

A DRUNKEN woman punched a woman in the face after she refused to hand over 70p.

Natalie Cater approached the victim in Walsall town centre as the latter was trying to get a taxi.

On being refused 70p, Cater grabbed the woman's bag before punching her in the face. A friend of the victim intervened only to be called 'four eyes' by Cater and punched in the face himself.

Cater, of Severn Road, Blakenall, stumbled off with the woman's mobile phone in her pocket - and was arrested after answering a call from police. She later revealed she was so drunk she had forgotten she had money in her own purse.

But the 30-year-old was spared jail after a sentencing judge told her he was giving her "one final opportunity." Having pleaded guilty to affray she was handed a 10-month jail term suspended for two years.

Mr Timothy Harrington, prosecuting, said Cater approached her victims in Bridge Street at 2am on July 3. He said: "When the woman refused to give her money this defendant grabbed her handbag and rummaged around. "She took out her purse

Report by Rob Cox

and mobile phone. When the woman asked for it back this defendant became difficult.

"She then punched her to the face which knocked her back. One of the woman's friends then intervened. The defendant then punched the friend. Others then intervened and they were separated but the defendant walked off with the phone in her back pocket.

"The police called the phone and it was answered by the defendant. She identified where she was and she was arrested." Mr Christopher O'Gorman, defending, said it was the first time his client had drunk alcohol since her last recorded offence in 2014. As part of her sentence Cater was made subject to a curfew, which will last two months.

Your local mobility experts with over 25 years experience
The Unlimited Company

OUR CONCERN IS YOU

Folding walking sticks
FROM ONLY £7.99

DISABLED TOILET KEY
ONLY £2.99

CUP
ONLY £4.00

JAR OPENER
ONLY £2

GRAB RAIL
ONLY £3

WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE

**JANUARY PROMOTION
15% OFF
ANY SCOOTER PURCHASED**

UNBEATABLE OFFERS ON STRAIGHT / CURVED STAIR LIFTS

Limited Offer New Straight Stair Lifts Supplied & Fitted £1195
* subject to survey

Fully fitted stair lifts installed by our professionally trained fitters stockists of Brooks, used curved stair lifts
FREE HOME SURVEYS & FAST FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE!

**KINGSLEY LIFT RECLINER CHAIR
ONLY £399**

**ELECTRIC ADJUSTABLE BEDS FROM
ONLY £399**

CASTLE WINDOWS

9.8 OUT OF 10 FROM 150 SURVEYS
Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

JANUARY OFFERS

BUY NOW PAY 2018 INTEREST FREE

(TERMS & CONDITIONS APPLY)

WINDOWS, DOORS & CONSERVATORIES ...BUILT TO LAST

FREEPHONE 0800 0355581
Email: info@castlewindowswalsall.co.uk www.castlewindowswalsall.co.uk
30 years' experience of manufacturing high quality pvcu windows and door products
Factory opening hours 8 - 5pm Mon to Fri
(Authorised and regulated by the financial Conduct Authority)

LIBERTY SCOOTER

ONLY £499
Small Transportable

LEO 4 SCOOTER

ONLY £949
4 MPH

ORION 8 SCOOTER

ONLY £1495
8 MPH

- ✓ FREE Easy Parking
- ✓ Best Prices on all batteries supplied
- ✓ Service work carried out at special rates
- ✓ Free daily living aids catalogue
- ✓ Motability Accredited

10 Woodlands Centre, Wood Lane, Willenhall, WV12 5ND
01922 400 344
www.careandmobility.co.uk

Transform Your Kitchen

But First - Request your FREE Brochure!

DON'T throw out costly cabinets when you can re-use them!
We Can Replace the Doors
Doors & More

Over 40 Styles & Colours
0800 088 7044

January Sale
Buy 2 get 1 Free

NEW BROCHURE For 2017

Call for a Copy today!
iudk.co.uk

GRAND NEW YEAR SALE

Topside/Silverside £1.99 lb

Rib eye steak £2.99 lb

Rump steak £2.99 lb

Sirloin steak £2.99 lb

Whole boneless loin pork £1.29 lb

Whole legs lamb £9.99 each

5kg chicken fillet £18

Full selection of other meats at greatly reduced prices



Edmund Howdle

Quality meat
est. 1935

38 High Street, Clayhanger, Brownhills WS8 7EA

Tel: 01543 375046 / 377625

All Major Debit & Credit Cards Accepted

Visit www.edmundhowdle.co.uk for a full price list & offers



Like us on Facebook

MP says prison service now in 'state of crisis'

MP David Winnick has hit out at the state of the prison service – claiming it is 'in a state of crisis' and has urged the Government to tell G4S that it is 'no longer needed'.

Mr Winnick, who represents Walsall North, spoke out over the state of prisons in the country, addressing Secretary of State for Justice Elizabeth Truss in a speech at the House of Commons.

He said Ms Truss 'is not willing to admit' that it has reached a crisis point. It followed the riots at Winson Green prison in Birmingham, which saw hundreds of inmates take over four wings in what experts called the worst prison riot since Strangeways in 1990.

Mr Winnick said: "It is very clear the prison service is in a state of acute crisis. It is a pity the Secretary of State is not willing to admit that. Why was G4S involved in staffing the prison in the first place?"

Organisation

"We should look at its past, G4S was the organisation that had to pay back £109 million to the Secretary of State's own Department for overcharging. There were problems in the Medway secure training centre, the Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre and many other cases where this organisation has been involved.

"It is time that G4S was told very clearly that its organisation is no longer needed in our Prison Service."

In response, Ms Truss said that the decision to put the prison out to private tender was a Labour decision taken in 2009.

Hundreds of inmates took over four wings of Winson Green last Friday in what experts called the worst prison riot since Strangeways in 1990. One inmate was reportedly seriously injured as prisoners broke free, smashing their way through the Victorian buildings, wrecking offices and lighting fires.

£100,000 haul is returned



Wolverhampton police officer Det Con Gary Thompson with various tools and equipment recovered from one address in Short Heath

A HAUL of stolen property worth up to £100,000 has been returned to the rightful owners by police.

Mobile phones, laptops, jewellery and power tools were included in the goods recovered during an 18-month crackdown in Wolverhampton codenamed Operation Maggie.

This led to over 400 stolen items being found in the drive to trace and return property taken in burglaries and thefts across the city.

Around three quarters of these have already been returned to their rightful owners using serial numbers and public viewing events.

Meanwhile those caught in possession of stolen goods have been prosecuted.

The successes came as Det Con Gary Thompson, the operation's co-ordinator, established close working relationships with businesses able to help in the fight against crime by keeping a look out for specific property and alert police if they are offered suspicious goods for sale.

The police team also gathered intelligence while monitoring online auctions and classified ad sites in the search for stolen items.

FIRESIDE FACTORY MASSIVE SALE NOW ON!

EXTRA DISCOUNTS • EX-DISPLAY SUITES TO CLEAR • ONE OFF SALE PACKAGES

EVERYTHING
REDUCED
GENUINE REDUCTIONS
AMAZING CHOICE



DON'T MISS THESE
AMAZING SALE PRICES
CALL FIRESIDE FACTORY NOW!



SELECTED
MARBLE
SURROUNDS
INC. **£799**
FREE SLIDE CONTROL GAS
FIRE WORTH £399



**LOWEST
PRICES!**
SEE OVER 100 FIREPLACES
WITH GAS & ELECTRIC
FIRES ON DISPLAY - ALL AT
THE LOWEST PRICES



**SALE
BARGAINS
AVAILABLE IN
EVERY STYLE**



**WOOD
BURNING
STOVES
FITTED FROM
£1800**

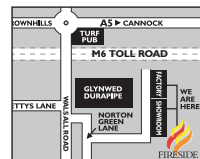
FIRESIDES & STOVES FROM LEADING MANUFACTURERS • FREE SURVEYS • FREE DELIVERY • EXPERT FITTING SERVICE



1st Floor, Units 6 & 7
Norton Canes Business Park,
Norton Green Lane, Norton Canes WS11 9SS
Tel: 01543 277366
www.firesidefactory.webs.com

OPENING HOURS

Tuesday - Friday 9am-5pm
Sat 10am-4pm
Sunday and Monday - CLOSED



WINTER SALE EXTRA DISCOUNTS OFF ALL SALE PRICES

Offer now in its
Final Week!



At Cousins we've got a really big store full of little wonders...

Hurry, extra discounts off all sale prices are now in their final week, there's never been a better time to save on furniture, carpets, beds, homewares and much more, including all the famous brand names.

Plus pay nothing until Summer, no deposit, interest free.



£849

ORWELL CORNER GROUP
(INCLUDES CUSHIONS)
Normal £1199 | Sale £899

SAVE
£350



SAVE OVER
£1000

£1499

VINCENT OAK EXTENDING TABLE & 4 CHAIRS
Normal £2529 | Sale £1599



SAVE
£250

£449

HEMINGWAY KING SIZE
FABRIC BEDSTEAD
Normal £699 | Sale £499



SAVE
£200

£499

OTTO LEATHER
SWIVEL CHAIR
Normal £699
Sale £549



LOW SALE PRICES. PAY NOTHING UNTIL SUMMER. NO DEPOSIT. INTEREST FREE.

Cousins

a true family business

Open 7 days a week | Late Nights: Tuesday & Thursday until 8pm
(Subject to variation on Bank Holidays)

Birmingham
Warwick Road,
Tyseley. B11 2EW.
T: 0121 765 3300

Dudley
Hall Street
DY2 8NW.
T: 01384 451500

Manchester
A57, Regent Rd,
Salford. M5 4EA.
T: 0161 875 4070

www.cousinsfurniture.co.uk

PRICE
PROMISE

Our price promise
to you, we won't be
beaten on price! *

CELEBRATING
31
YEARS

- Free parking
- Instore restaurant
- Large stocks
- Immediate delivery



0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

Deferred Interest Free Credit available on all orders over £500. Subject to status. All balances must be paid in June 2017 on the date specified at the time of purchase. Written details on request. Offer not available on clearance items, online offers, web specials and in-store concessions. Some items are subject to one per household and only available in limited colours, or the colours shown in this advert. Prices in this advert are valid until 15.01.17 except where stated. See website for Price Promise details.



Aldridge Fireplaces

**SALE
NOW ON**



**£100
OFF ALL
ORDERS
PLACED
IN
JANUARY**

FREE FITTING

excludes fires without surrounds

**AN ADDITIONAL £100 OFF ANY FIREPLACE
UNTIL SATURDAY 14th JANUARY***

£200 OFF

***Bring voucher to claim discount**

Visit our website for full details of Products and services

OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10am-4.30pm

51a Anchor Road, Aldridge WS9 8PT

01922 458017

www.aldridgeplaces.co.uk



Welcome spark of inspiration on show at Aldridge Fireplaces

Commercial feature

Looking for inspiration this January? If so look no further and visit a thriving fireplace showroom in the centre of Aldridge.

Aldridge Fireplaces is located at Anchor Road opposite The Crown Carvery and is a family-owned business that has bucked the trend by coming out of a recession stronger and wiser.

Apart from delivering quality products on time and to customer's personal specification they strive to achieve inspirational results that meet all our customer expectations.

Our experienced sales staff are also able to offer packages to suit all ages and styles of home, and offer quality products at affordable prices, as well as manufacturing bespoke fireplaces to the correct size for each customer if required.

Investment

In addition to this there is currently FREE FITTING on offer when you purchase a fire with a suite.

We will be offering until the end of January £100 off any fireplace suite when purchased with any of our electric or gas fires.

"We feel January is normally a doom and gloom month," says Dan.

"And with this in mind we wanted to offer our customers something towards their big investment by offering a £100 off any fire surround when purchased



Some of the range of products available inside Aldridge Fireplaces showroom

with one of our range of gas or electric fires."

"The free fitting has proven to be very popular," adds Matt.

"We now have a qualified Gas safe and Hetas accredited team of engineers who work solely for the company and our customers can therefore be confident that all work

carried out is completed to the relevant industry standards.

Mat continues: "Most fireplace showrooms in the market will offer a card from a third party installer.

"Well that's where we differ as all our works are carried out and guaranteed by the company therefore giving you added satisfaction and piece of mind."

10 DAY MEGA MEAT SALE AT SYDNEY WATTS

STARTS THURSDAY 5TH ENDS SUNDAY 15TH

**10 FRESH
SIRLOIN
STEAKS**

£9.99



**2LB
GAMMON JOINT
£3.99**

**HALF
PRICE £1.99**



**3LB
BONELESS
PORK CHOPS**

£4.99



**2 1/2 LB
BEST SHORT
BACK BACON
£4.99**

NOW £3.99



**5LB MINCED
BEEF**

£4.99



**5LB CHICKEN
DRUMSTICKS**

£2.50



Sydney Watts, 26 Market Place, Willenhall WV13 2AA • 01902 602224

DANCE XTREME

LEARN TO DANCE

Ballroom & Latin/Salsa

BEGINNERS CLASSES

**Blue Coat Academy
Birmingham Street
Walsall WS1 2ND**

**Starting Thursday 12th
January at 6.45pm**

*Other levels available

For further details please visit our website

www.dance-x-treme.co.uk

or call Sue or George on

07971 579626



Revamped gates mark a new chapter at steel site

THE gates of a famous steelworks have now been returned to their original state after a community project.

The Ductile Wesson steelworks site in Moxley, Walsall, became a magnet for fly-tippers five years ago after its buildings were demolished.

But the site has since been improved and now over 200 people work at two new units there.

Pupils from Moorcroft Wood Primary School and artist Paul Margetts worked together on the artwork for the gates to mark the site's heritage. Their artwork features a steelworker, a steam train, a steamship, coal and a mill. And Darlaston South Councillor Paul Bott has been at the forefront of the project with fellow member of Walsall Council, Councillor Chris Bott, for years.

Development

Councillor Paul Bott said: "It is fantastic. It all comes from an area which has been vandalised.

"The gates must be 80, 90 years old. They might be older than that. Our planning officers and developers went into Moorcroft Park Primary School and then the kids worked with the artist and designed the gates over the industrial history of the site.

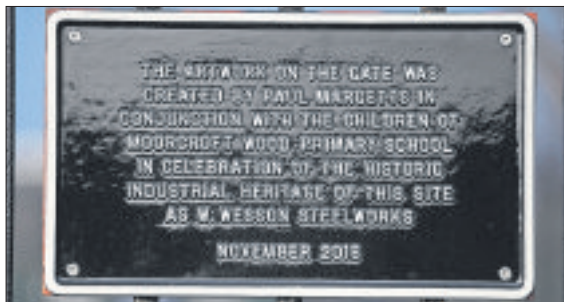
"With the planning process it's probably been in three years with the design and the development and the artist."

Wesson was acquired by William Henry Wesson in 1898 from Victoria Ironworks. About 150 people lost their jobs in 2009 when the Wesson foundry closed down, shutting the door on two centuries' worth of history. Up until then, the factory was running as a steel mill for automotive, hydraulic and engineering uses.

British Airways Pension Trustees



Councillors Paul and Christine Bott next to the impressive gate



The metal plaque on the gate which explains how it all came about

Ltd now owns the site in Bull Lane.

It is used by two firms which employ hundreds of people there. They include furniture giant DFS.

A plaque on the new gates reads: "The artwork on the gate was created by Paul Margetts in conjunction with the children of Moorcroft Wood Pri-

mary School in celebration of the historic industrial heritage of this site as W.Wesson steelworks."

The Moxley Regeneration group, chaired by Fred Gleeson, also fought to ensure the Wesson land was kept for employment use before new businesses were located there.

www.suddz.co.uk

Supply Only or Full Installation KITCHENS or BATHROOMS

3D DESIGN SERVICE

We guarantee to beat any quotation on a like for like basis*

UPTO 70% OFF ALL ITEMS on installations in January and February t's & c's apply

*Terms & Conditions Apply

0% VAT FOR VAT FREE QUALIFYING CUSTOMERS

(Terms & Conditions Apply)

Suddz Bathrooms & Kitchens

Units 2/3, Smarts Business Park, Chase Road, Brownhills, WS8 6JN

Opening Hours - Mon, Weds, Thurs and Fri 9am-5pm, Tues 10am-3pm, Sat 10am - 4pm

Call now for a **FREE**, no obligation quote: **01543 379670**



QUALITY SLIDING DOOR SYSTEMS

See our website to view our full ranges and options

www.glideandslide.co.uk

Tel: 01543 679202



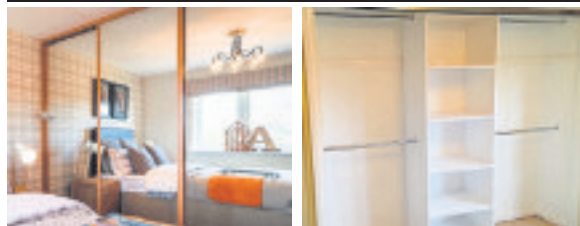
10% OFF with this advert (excluding composite doors)

EMAIL: INFO@GLIDEANDSLIDE.CO.UK

FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE, PLEASE CALL US ON: **01543 679202**

- Made to order, with a large choice of colours and finishes
- Delivery direct to home or site
- Available to trade and retail

Composite GRP Doors from £410.00 + VAT



www.glideandslide.co.uk

Visit our showroom: Unit 3, Northgate Business Park, Northgate, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8TH

From a simple door swap to a full replacement kitchen...

Just give us a call...



Have you always wanted the kitchen of your dreams, but can't quite justify paying the expensive price tag that comes with it? Now you can by just swapping the doors and worktops.

- Trusted reputation
- FREE estimating & planning
- Huge choice of worktops, doors, appliances, sinks & taps

DREAM DOORS®

NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

Members of Walsall Trader Register (Trading Standards)

Call today for a **FREE** estimate: **01922 896241**

Visit our showroom: 14 Beacon Buildings, Leighswood Road, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8AA

Proud members of Checkatrade.com

www.dreamdoors.co.uk

Find us on f t

All aspects of arranging a Funeral for your loved one

**At your service 24 Hours a day
7 Days a Week
Funerals from £950**

Our Values are simple: We believe in being open and transparent.
We believe the most important people in our Funeral Home are your loved ones.

- Home Visits & Arrangements
- Private Chapel of Rest
- 24 Hour Professional Support
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans Available
- Chauffeur Service to our Funeral Home
- Repatriation Service

Caring for you and your loved ones through the generations



Jennifer Ashe & Son
Funeral Directors

78 High Street, Brownhills, WS8 6EW

01543 378 022

www.jafunerals.co.uk

Jennifer Ashe & Son – our privilege to serve community

Commercial feature

Jennifer Ashe & Son Funeral Directors opened the doors of it's Brownhills office in November 2016.

Founded by Jennifer, son John and son-in-law Richard we feel privileged to be serving our local communities, we feel truly honoured when a family entrusts their loved ones into our care.



MD Jennifer

We believe in offering affordable funerals for all, and with this in mind we have created several packages to suit all budgets. Our silver package starts from £950, our gold from £1,450 and our platinum at £1,950.

We are experienced at supporting families who need to arrange funerals using Social Fund payments – if you require this service, speak to us in confidence and we will be able to support you with the process.

As members of The National Federation of Funeral Directors we have signed The Fair Price Charter committing us to offering affordable funerals for all.

We have also signed The Fair Funerals Pledge in aid of removing Funeral Poverty in The UK.

We are proud to be members of Veterans Bereavement Support Services, who offer affordable funerals and bereavement care for those who have served in the Armed Forces and the Merchant Navy.

Many people these days plan ahead and choose to pay for their funeral



The funeral director's distinctive premises in Brownhills High Street

upfront, removing the financial burden from their loved ones.

Speak to us about our pre-payment plan options, we can offer advice and support if this is something you are thinking of doing.

We are available around the clock to support and care for you and your loved one when you need us, as a family we know and understand what the loss of a loved one feels like.

Located on Brownhills High Street we are best placed to serve the communities of Brownhills, Clayhanger, Aldridge, Pelsall, Walsall, Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley, Cannock, Burntwood and Lichfield.

Our Website offers more detail on the services we provide, and useful information on what to do when a bereavement happens – www.jafunerals.co.uk

Our Team

Managing Director Jennifer was born in Cheslyn Hay and went to Great Wyrley High School. Throughout her professional life, Jennifer has run several successful businesses before moving into the funeral profession.

Richard was born and raised in Lichfield, upon leaving school he joined the RAF serving his country at home and abroad. Richard's last posting was in Germany, a country he likes to return to several times a year.

Meanwhile, John was born in Cheslyn Hay and grew up in Burntwood where he attended Chase Terrace High School. John's caring and compassionate nature along with his ability to put those he meets at ease fitted well with the role of a funeral director and he soon realised this was a profession he wished to work in.

WM GARAGE DOORS

WINTER WARMERS

Garage Doors

from

£240*

Inc. VAT



**RISK FREE
0% DEPOSIT
ORDERING**

**We will
NOT
be beaten
on price!**

**FREE
ALARM
ON ALL
ELECTRIC
DOORS
WHILE STOCKS LAST**

BROMPTON



- ✓ FITTING SERVICE
- ✓ METAL, TIMBER, GRP, UPVC
- ✓ MADE TO MEASURE
- ✓ ALL MAJOR MANUFACTURERS AVAILABLE

Showroom Opening times:

Mon-Fri: 9.00am-5.00pm Sat: 10.00am-4.00pm

(all other times by appointment)

WALSALL GARDEN CENTRE

Sutton Road, Walsall WS9 0QH

ROLLER



**£1575
NOW
£850
Inc. VAT**

SIDE HINGED



**£1225
NOW
£690
Inc. VAT**

Tel: 01922 611253

www.wmgaragedoors.co.uk

sales@wmgaragedoors.co.uk

FREE NO OBLIGATION ON SITE QUOTE

INC*Not in conjunction with any other offer. *Based on a 7 x 7ft Garage Door. *Fitting Charges apply.



Carl Cope collapses outside the A&E at Walsall Manor

Medic may lose his job for failing to intervene

A PARAMEDIC who failed to act as a man lay dying outside Walsall Manor Hospital could face being struck off nearly five years after it happened.

Matthew Geary, from Great Wyrley, was spared jail and given an eight month suspended prison sentence for his part in the incident on June 23, 2012 which led to the death of Carl Cope.

He was then given a reprimand by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) in January this year, after a disciplinary panel ruled he could continue working, but only under a two-year supervision. But now that decision has been contested and Mr Geary will be hauled back before the same panel again on January 7 for a two day hearing – once again with his job on the line.

A HCPC spokeswoman said: "The hearing decision for the case of Geary, which took place in January 2016, was appealed by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) to the high court. The case has been remitted back to the same panel for reconsideration"



Matthew Geary



CCTV images of the incident



Patient, Carl Cope

Motionless
Mr Geary, now 38, had brought Mr Cope, from Parker Street, Bloxwich, to the Manor the day he died but watched from a window as he collapsed from a heart attack and appealed for help.

CCTV also showed the paramedic standing motionless with his hands in his pockets as he looked down on the stricken man.

Mr Geary was originally accused of manslaughter but instead a guilty plea of failing to discharge his duty was accepted at Wolverhampton Crown Court in February last year.

His punishment also included 240 hours of unpaid work as well as the suspended sentence.

When the investigation was launched the paramedic resigned from West Midlands Ambulance Service, where he had served for eight years, but continued to work in the profession elsewhere.

In January the HCPC panel declared Mr Geary's fitness to practice had been impaired but ruled against striking him off.

Panel chairman Ian Hughes said: "The person who appears before the panel is a changed man.

"The registrant has fully accepted he had not taken the appropriate level of assessment and should not have left the patient on his own. The panel has accepted the registrant's remorse and regret of what happened."

Plan to create flats

PLANS to convert a grade II listed building into apartments are being backed by councillors.

Developers are seeking to create eight apartments at Market Place, in Willenhall town centre, next to the Bell Inn pub.

The building is currently used as offices but dates back to the mid-1800s and was given grade II listed status in 1986. Arshad Mahmood is seeking to convert the building.

Walsall Council planning officers have recommending approving the plans.

LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED

COMFORT BEDS

Established Family Business Over 20 years

SALE NOW ON



FABRIC BEDSTEAD
DOUBLE WAS £399 **NOW ONLY £249**
KINGSIZE WAS £449 **NOW ONLY £299**



WOODEN BEDSTEAD
DOUBLE WAS £399 **NOW ONLY £199**
KINGSIZE WAS £425 **NOW ONLY £215**



WOODEN & FABRIC BEDSTEAD
DOUBLE WAS £299 **NOW ONLY £149**



PRICES SLASHED ON SEALY BEDS*
KINGSIZE BEDS FOR THE PRICE OF A DOUBLE WITH FOUR FREE STORAGE DRAWERS
(*SELECTED MODELS ONLY)



SILENTNIGHT BEDS,
FOUR FREE STORAGE DRAWERS ON ALL DOUBLE, KINGSIZE & SUPERKING BEDS



SLEEPEEZEE HOTEL 900 POCKET 2 DRAWER BED
SINGLE WAS £599 **NOW ONLY £399**
DOUBLE WAS £849 **NOW ONLY £549**
KINGSIZE WAS £899 **NOW ONLY £599**

**FREE DELIVERY IN LOCAL AREA | DISPOSAL OF OLD BED
SET UP SERVICE AVAILABLE**

HUGE REDUCTIONS ON ALL TOP BRANDS



Walsall Showroom

Jubilee House, Walsall Road, Walsall Wood, Walsall WS9 9AH (Next to Barons Court Hotel)

Open 7 days a week, Mon-Sat: 9.00am - 5.30pm, Sunday: 10.00am - 4.00pm

01543 529146



Sutton Coldfield Showroom

51 Birmingham Road, Sutton Coldfield B72 1QF (By the Empire Cinema)

Open 7 days a week, Mon - Sat: 9.30am - 5.30pm Sunday: 11.00am - 4.00pm

0121 355 5390

WWW.COMFORTBEDS.CO.UK • INFO@COMFORTBEDS.CO.UK

OUR AIM IS TO HELP YOU MEET YOUR AIM

YEAR 11 OPEN EVENTS @ SANDWELL COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY 11 JANUARY 5PM - 8PM

CENTRAL CAMPUS & CENTRAL SIXTH, WEST BROMWICH

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY 11AM - 3PM

CENTRAL CAMPUS, WEST BROMWICH

THE MEGA DEAL

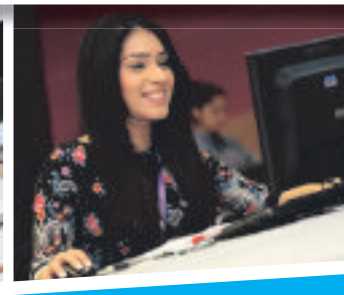
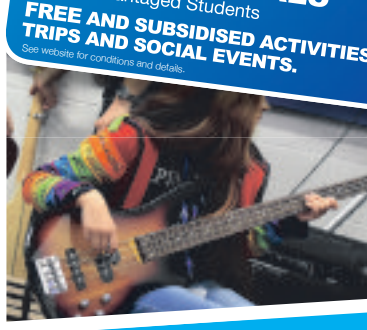
**FREE METRO TRAVEL
OR FREE BUS TRAVEL**
(with option to top-up to both) for all 16-18
full-time students

**FINANCIAL SUPPORT
AND FREE MEALS**
for Disadvantaged Students

**FREE AND SUBSIDISED ACTIVITIES,
TRIPS AND SOCIAL EVENTS.**
See website for conditions and details.

Vocational Courses
Central Campus, 1 Spon Lane,
West Bromwich B70 6AW

A Level Centre
Central Sixth, New Street,
West Bromwich B70 7PG



The fastest-growing FE college in Birmingham and the Black Country

85.3% success rate, 2015-16, against 78.4% national average

Two outstanding modern campuses in a regenerated town centre

Active links with hundreds of local businesses

More than just a college – a gateway to university and work

0800 622 006 www.sandwell.ac.uk


Sandwell College
West Bromwich

RATED GOOD BY Ofsted

Further Education and Skills inspection report published 19 June 2014,
Inspection Number: 434083.

A Friendly approach to defying ageing process with assisted exercise machines

17
The Chronicle Thursday, January 5, 2017

Commercial feature

Great news for ladies over 40 . . . Friendly Gym is an exciting concept in the battle against ageing.

Improved joint mobility and posture, better digestion and sleep patterns, weight loss, figure improvement and increased energy levels, are just some of the benefits reported by hundreds of satisfied clients.

Modern/clinical Pilates practitioner Michelle Landon explained why Friendly Gym is aimed specifically at the over 40s. She said: "Younger people are already quite well catered for."

"There are plenty of ordinary health clubs and gymnasiums, aerobics classes etc. In my experience however, older people find those facilities intimidating. They are full of young, fit bodied people. The staff tends to be very young too. I felt that it was time that the over 40's had a place of their own to keep in shape. They want to exercise as much as younger people do, but they don't feel the need to train like an athlete."

"They want equipment that is simple to use, even if they are overweight or suffer from arthritis or low back pain. They want instructors that understand their capabilities and facilities that are a little more luxurious and friendly than a typical health club. What they don't want is blaring pop music. They want a facility that provides the opportunity to relax and socialise. Clients tell us we have got it just right."

What is the Friendly Gym concept?

Michelle added: "Assisted exercise is the name of the exercise system used in the Friendly Gym. There are ten assisted exercise machines and they are 'motorised' to make exercise easy and enjoyable. Each machine



One of the assisted exercise machines in operation

has a different function. It takes just 30 minutes to use them all, by which time the whole body has been exercised. Assisted exercise is fun. However poor a beginner's condition may be, and regardless of age, anyone can cope with assisted exercise."

Do people have to be 40 plus?

Michelle: "No, we have plenty of under 40s using the centre. Friendly Gym appeals to anyone that wants a gentler way of getting into



The ultimate goal of losing inches

shape, regardless of their age. But we do tend to attract the over 40's primarily. What pleases me is that we are attracting many clients in their 50s, 60s, 70s and even people in their 80s, our oldest member is 92. In fact over 85 per cent of all our members are over 40 years of age. The average age works out at 65."

Can assisted exercise slow ageing?

Michelle: "Assisted exercise can increase fitness, joint mobility and muscular strength



Instructors know older people's needs



Motorised assistance to stay in shape

by about 20 per cent. Energy levels are substantially increased. Body fat is reduced. Muscle loss is retarded. The risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and thrombosis are reduced. In my book, this adds up to a serious fightback against the ageing process."

Is figure improvement and weight loss really important?

Michelle: "Average inch loss in the first 12 to 16 weeks can often exceed a full dress size

even when no weight loss is involved. Unlike toning tables or conventional resistance machines, assisted exercise allows you to exercise aerobically and to burn fat."

"Overweight clients follow our unique weight loss plan that guarantees most clients a minimum of half a stone per month reduction. "The combination of muscle toning and weight loss makes assisted exercise the most effective figure improvement programme ever devised."

Your centre seems very relaxing. Is this deliberate?

Michelle: "We live in a stress-filled environment and we wanted to create a facility where people could relax, unwind and socialise. The Friendly Gym is the ideal place to nurture the mind as well as the body. The decor, furnishings and even the background music have been carefully selected to create the right ambience."

How safe is assisted exercise?

Michelle: "Great care has been taken with the design of assisted exercise machines."

"The back is fully supported at all times and joints are mobilised throughout a safe functional range. Assisted exercise is already helping a lot of our members increase their mobility."

How often should ladies attend and how much does it cost?

Michelle: "To achieve maximum benefit, people should attend two or three times per week. Membership can average as little as £3 per visit. Anyone interested should call and arrange a free guest visit."

friendly Gym®
Where Exercise is Easy®

Look as young as you feel

More people are discovering the fountain of youth at the Brownhills Friendly Gym

The buzz on the street, is that 50 is the new 30. with people living longer and taking better care of themselves, those who used to be thought of as "over the hill" are now as active and vibrant as their 30 year old counterparts - and they are committed to staying that way.

So how are they staying so youthful?. **By exercising at the Brownhills Friendly Gym of course !** We cater for this population of "actively ageing adults", we are attracting more and more ladies with our friendly "Ladies Only" environment and special easy assisted exercise programs that emphasize health and toning, rather than youth.

Today, those in shape at 50 have the opportunity to stay in shape, with the simple 30-minute easy assisted exercise programs. Regular users are much more likely to stay in shape and **live younger**

Now in Brownhills Community Centre

A friendly welcome is always guaranteed, ladies call 01543 373222 for your free trial

Trial session includes free figure analysis.



Follow us on
Check out our latest offers on our website
www.friendlygym.com



18 Two spared jail term on illegal cigs

The Chronicle Thursday, January 5, 2017

Hospital staff rest rooms being used in beds shortage

FRONT line staff at Walsall Manor Hospital are losing rest rooms as trust bosses look to make space for more patient beds.

An employee has branded the decision to take away the facilities as 'disgusting'.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust has confirmed the conversions are taking place to create five extra single rooms to help meet increasing demand for services at the hospital, particularly during the busy winter period. The changes were revealed by a staff member, who preferred to remain anonymous. He said: "I know that there is a shortage of beds, but it's not really fair on us to get rid of these staff rooms."

"I think it's disgusting. And I notice that none of the staff rooms in the corporate part of the hospital are getting converted." The rooms gave staff somewhere to make hot drinks and use the microwave during

hectic shifts. Staff have been advised that they can use the hospital's restaurant, outside space and some remaining rest rooms on other wards instead.

The trust has described these staff rest rooms as 'under-used clinical areas', and say that the changes are bringing them back into full use for patients who need general medical care.

Mark Sinclair, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust's lead director for estates and facilities, said: "Patients' health, safety and wellbeing are our priority and we are always looking at ways of making the best use possible of the space available, working with staff to do so."

"We have converted some unused clinical areas, that were being used as staff rest rooms, and some office space to help create extra capacity for patients, allowing us provide five extra side rooms across our general medical wards. We'd like to thank staff for their patience."

CAB petition launched to rethink cuts



The Citizens Advice building on Lichfield Street, where a petition has been started to keep the service

STAFF at Walsall's Citizens Advice Bureau have launched a petition urging council bosses to re-think funding cuts which will put the service at risk.

The petition, gathered more than 100 signatures, with organisers aiming to reach 1,500 to ensure it is debated among Walsall Council bosses.

Funding from Walsall council is set to be reduced by £132,458 in 2017/18.

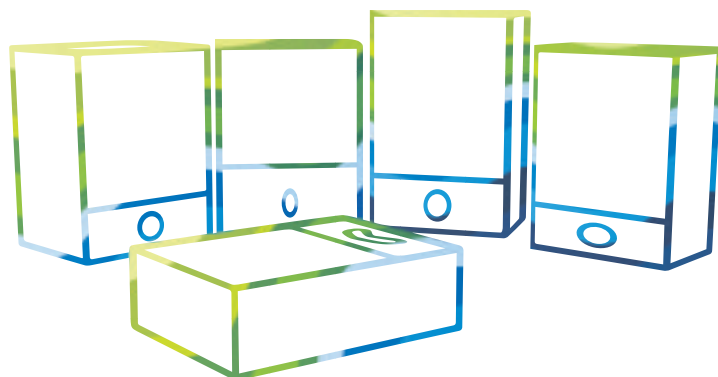
Proposals include cutting the core grant year on year by 20 per cent for the next three years and removing

funding from GP Outreach surgeries so clients with mobility or health conditions will be unable to access the service.

Rebecca Floyd, who is organising the petition, said: "Walsall Citizens Advice Bureau has been providing free, independent, impartial and confidential advice to those who work or reside in Walsall since 1939. If this proposal goes ahead this will put at risk the existence of one of the oldest and busiest Citizens Advices in the country."

Councillor Doug James, who represents Darlaston North, has said that Citizens Advice Bureau's offer a 'better service' to residents in need of help than local MPs and asked for MPs to refuse proposed wage increases in light of the impending cuts to the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Councillor James said: "I think it is wrong of MPs to accept a pay rise at the same time as local government cuts to Citizens Advice Bureau services are being made."



1 in 5 boilers won't make it this year

Sign up to SSE annual boiler cover and get the first **3 months free**

Call 0330 1000 060
sse.co.uk/3-months-free



Subject to T&Cs, exclusions and geographic restrictions. Standalone offer. Offer ends 31 March 2017. Boiler breakdown claim based on October 2013 uswitch survey. £0 for the first 3 months and then from £16.90 for the remaining 9 months when you take shield gas heating or shield gas boiler care (excluding flexi).

For more stores please visit:

Cash4Clothes.co.uk

CASH PAID INSTANTLY! £

We pay instant £'s for your unwanted, clean and wearable clothing, paired footwear, handbags and accessories!

Simply:

- 1 Empty your wardrobes of all your unwanted clothing and bring them to us!
- 2 We check to make sure they are clean and reusable
- 3 We pay cash for everything that we accept - instantly!

ALDRIDGE	CANNOCK
198B Walsall Road, WS9 0JT (opposite White House Pub)	Hollies Park Road, WS11 1DB (next to Wickes)
RUGELEY	SUTTON COLDFIELD
45 Albion Street, WS15 2BY (opposite Morrisons)	Unit 24 Riland Ind. Est. Norris Way, B75 7BB (before the tip)
BROWNHILLS	KIDDERMINSTER
1 Silver Court, WS8 6HA	39 Mill Street, DY11 6XB (just off main lights)
STAFFORD	WILLENHALL
Unit 3 Verulam Court, ST16 3DT (next to the tip)	306 Stroud Avenue, WV12 4HA
OLDBURY	HALESOWEN
Unit 7a, Fountain Business Park (corner of Fountain Lane & Bromford Lane), Oldbury, B69 3BH	Unit 5 Western Business Park, Coombs Road, Halesowen, B62 8AF

FREE COLLECTION SERVICE* Minimum of 5 black bags

AREA 1 : Stafford, Rugeley, Cannock, Burntwood, Lichfield
AREA 2 : Wolverhampton, Walsall, Willenhall, Brownhills, Bilston
AREA 3 : Dudley, Tipton, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Halesowen

AREA 4 : Kingswinford, Stourbridge, Kidderminster, Stourport
AREA 5 : Shifnal, Telford, Bridgnorth, Wolverhampton

* WE PAY 35P PER KG FOR COLLECTIONS!

More stores in: Bradley, Forsbrook, Chester, Coventry, Derby, Leeds, Telford & Wakefield. For your nearest store visit cash4clothes.co.uk

0845 900 4044
Stores Open Mon to Sat: 9am - 4pm

WE NOW PAY 5P PER KG FOR BOOKS!

WE PAY £4.50 PER 10KG BAG

TRA

Express & Star

FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:

- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk

*All prices are subject to VAT

Claims calls and texts set to soar

MORE calls and texts from claims management companies encouraging people to make personal injury claims – even if they haven't been injured – will reach 'epidemic' proportions under Government plans, lawyers have warned.

Cold calling is defined as the solicitation of business from potential customers who have had no prior contact with the salesperson conducting the call. Neil Sugarman, president of national not-for-profit group

the association of personal injury lawyers (APIIL), explained: "If you think there are too many calls and texts already, brace yourself to be inundated."

"The Government's plan is to force vast numbers of injured people through the small claims court. This is a business opportunity for claims management companies, who will tout for claims just as they do for people who were mis-sold payment protection insurance."

Club's new stand unveiled as it bids to kick off success

A NEW 50-seater stand has been unveiled at a historic football club in the latest part of its rebuilding story.

The completion of the £21,000 project will pave the way for Darlaston Town 1874 FC to get back to where they were before being forced to fold three years ago due to financial troubles. They are currently playing in Division One of the West Midlands Regional League but the new stand, which also features wheelchair access for disabled supporters, will enable them to play in the Premier division, one promotion away.

Before dissolving Darlaston had held their home games, in the premier division, at Waverley Road which had an old wooden stand built in the early 1900s.

But since their resurrection they now play at Bentley Road where they have gradually looked to rebuild and revamp the facilities. Club chairman Neil Chambers said: "This was the next phase in our development. In the past two years we have been at Bentley Leisure Pavilion and we have looked to improve the facilities. The next phase was the stand."

Benches

"This will be fit for the West Midlands Premier Division and above. Obviously we have to win the leagues and get there but we wanted to put the facilities in place ready to move us on when that time arrives. The old stand at Waverley Road was just wooden benches and while it had a great history being over 100 years old it was not really suitable anymore."

The club had raised more than £6,500 for the development itself and benefitted hugely from a £15,288 grant from the Premier League Football Stadium Improvement Fund. Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz had helped secure the funding and was present for the unveiling ahead of Darlaston's Birmingham FA Vase match against Alvis



Valerie Vaz MP opens Darlaston Town FC's new 50 seat stand at the Paycare ground

Sporting FC which they lost four-nil.

Ms Vaz said: "This has been very important to me because it provides a place for young people to play and who knows what they could become. It is also very good to see the Premier League give something back to grassroots football. The new stand is a just a joyful place to sit. I hope it gives Darlaston the chance to go from strength to strength."

SALE NOW ON



GEM

CARPET AND BED WAREHOUSE

- Free Estimates
- Fast Fitting Service
- Free Parking on site at our stores
- Established for over 30 years
- Additional savings on housefuls
- We beat any like for like quote
- Big discount for Landlords



...up to

70% off

CARPET AND BED WAREHOUSE



Rugeley

Unit 7, Trent Business Park,
Power Station Road, Rugeley. WS15 2HS
Open: 9am - 5:30pm Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm Saturday

Tel: 01889 579074

Heath Hayes

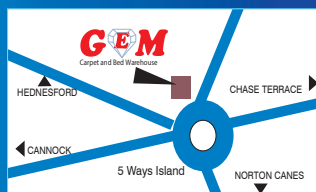
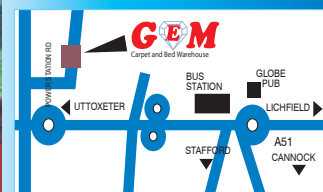
Five Ways House, Five Ways,
Heath Hayes WS12 3EA
Open: 9am - 5:30pm Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm Saturday

Tel: 01543 270652

Walsall Wood

Walsall Road, Walsall Wood. WS9 9AH
Open: 9am - 5:30pm Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm Saturday
and 10am - 4pm Sunday

Tel: 01543 897070



MASSIVE NEW YEAR SAVINGS IN STORE NOW

BEST CARE

MOBILITY

Best Care now in Pelsall Village
Sale on rise & recline chairs
and Stairlifts



From £499

Rise & Recliner
Chairs all in
store for same
day delivery

Walk-in-Baths
on show

Daily Living
Aids and a
whole lot more

Stairlifts
from £995

Same day fitting available,
no deposit required on straight lifts



(T&Cs apply)

FREE insurance
plus first service
FREE with any new
scooter



From £499

8 Norton Road, Pelsall, Walsall WS3 4AY

01922 493506 email: bestcaremobility@gmail.com


LEAMORE

WINDOWS & CONSERVATORIES

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS : ESTABLISHED 1983

LEAMORE WINDOW & DOOR REPAIR SERVICE

THE COMPLETE SERVICE
FRIENDLY & PROFESSIONAL



LOCKS • CYLINDERS • HINGES
HANDLES • LETTER BOXES
uPVC DOUBLE GLAZED UNITS

Registered Company 13905 **FENSA**

FREEPHONE: 0500 20 22 23
www.leamorewindows.com
Leamore Lane Bloxwich Walsall WS2 7QZ
Show Room open weekdays 8.00am-5.30pm Sat 8.00am - 4.00pm

Windows | Sash Windows | Doors | Patio Doors
BiFold Doors | Porches | Tiled Roof | Orangeries
Conservatories | Fascia | Complete Repair Service

J&M FIREPLACES

UNBEATABLE OFFER
Marble Fireplace with British Made gas or electric fire
many colours to choose from
FULLY FITTED
(by Award Winning Fitters) (to Point)
FREE SURVEYS
Don't waste time shopping around Other offers available

£799.00

197 Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley, Walsall, WS2 0DU
Tel: 01922 629454 Open: 10am-4pm daily, Closes Wednesday/Sunday

ASSURED

PLUMBING, GAS AND ELECTRICAL LTD

Assured Plumbing, Gas & Electrical Ltd are a company based in the West Midlands, with over 10 years of experience, 11 qualified engineers that cover domestic, commercial and retail properties.

We offer various services including:

- Gas Safety Inspections
- Boiler Servicing/Breakdowns & Installations
- Electrical & PAT Testing Reports
- Distribution Board Upgrades
- Alarm / CCTV Installations

Call us now on 01922 454 687

TaxAssist Accountants

The Accountancy and Tax Service for Small Business

YOUR LOCAL WALSALL BASED ACCOUNTANT

ALL ACCOUNTANCY WORK UNDERTAKEN INCLUDING:

- Self employed • Rental property's • CIS contractors
- Limited companies • New start up's

POP IN AT 16 LEIGHWOOD ROAD, ALDRIDGE FOR A FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

CALL: 01922 744955
bakhshhayer@taxassist.co.uk www.taxassist.co.uk/walsall

Little Rascals Day Nursery

at Aldridge and Darlaston

Print House, Northgate, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8TH
Bilston Street, Darlaston, S10 8EY

01922 311931 0121 4392830
www.littlerascalschildcare.co.uk

CLICK FLOORING

Quality Floors & less

MASSIVE STOCK CLEARANCE TO MAKE ROOM FOR NEW STOCK



LAMINATE PACKS STARTING FROM £10.00 PER PACK

WHY PAY MORE ANYWHERE ELSE?

- Laminates
- Hardwood
- Solid Wood
- Quick • Step
- Authorised Dealer

248 High Street, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 3LN
01922 495525
www.clickflooringonline.co.uk
Email: info@clickflooringonline.co.uk

WALSALL worktops

BESPOKE FULLY FITTED KITCHENS

We Build Kitchens Good Enough to Eat In

Why not visit our showroom

Family run business Est 35 years

FREE easy parking

- Free design service
- Home survey
- All work fully guaranteed
- Massive choice
- Supply only of fully fitted
- Unbelievable choice of worktops

Mon-Fri 9am-5.15pm
Sat 9am-3pm
Closed Sundays

Unit 4, Portland Street, Walsall
Tel: 01922 641377

The Company That Cares

Aldridge Fireplaces

FREE FITTING (excludes fires only)



• We may not be the biggest but our service certainly is.
• Compare our recommendations/testimonials to other companies locally on (www.thebestof.co.uk/Walsall) as voted by YOU the customers.
• Compare our TOTAL price compared to other competitors.

51A ANCHOR ROAD, ALDRIDGE WS9 8PT
01922 458017
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 10am-4.30pm

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING NEW TO DO?

COME AND HAVE A CHAT WITH OUR FRIENDLY STAFF

Sewing & Craft
Model Railway Club
Canoeing & Kayaking
Exercise Classes
Sporting activities & swimming

AND MUCH MORE!
www.sneydca.co.uk

Sneyd Community Association, Vernon Way, Bloxwich, Walsall WS3 2PA
Tel: 01922 710133 Email: sneydca@gmail.com

STAN REYNOLDS Garage Ltd

Family run business Est. 1963 Established over 50 years

FROM OLD TO NEW WE DO THEM ALL

We can service your new vehicle without invalidating your warranty (TNC)

01922 623545
www.stanreynoldsgarage.co.uk
Mill Street, Walsall, West Midlands WS2 8AN

Exercise Your Body & Exercise Your Mind LEARN TO DANCE

ADULT CLASSES IN LATIN, BALLROOM, FREESTYLE, AT A FULL TIME WELL ESTABLISHED SCHOOL OF DANCE

THE WEDNESBURY DANCE CENTRE

first floor over LADBROKES...Market Place, Wednesbury WS10 7AY

NEW BEGINNERS CLASS STARTING MONDAY 9TH JANUARY

Enquire 0121 556 5285...07793 371 639
www.dancemagicwednesbury.co.uk

ANYBLIND

Window Blind Specialists
VERTICALS ROLLERS ROMANS WOOD
VENETIAN BLEATED VELUX STRINGS

0808 1234 020
0333 121 2020

Unit 15 Old Hall Trading Estate, Revival Street, Bloxwich Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 3HU



Four Great Leisure Centres

- Bloxwich Active Living Centre
- Oak Park Active Living Centre
- Darlaston Swimming Pool
- Walsall Gala Swimming and Fitness Centre



www.walsall.gov.uk/leisure

Leisure Services from Walsall Council



CHRONICLE

mna media

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Could you be the future of Fostering?

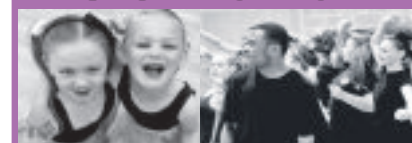
Do you have...

- a spare bedroom?
- time available in your life to care for a child?
- experience or an interest in looking after children?

Call 0800 923 3706
E-mail: fostering@walsallcouncil.gov.uk
www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk

Walsall Council

CHB PERFORMING ARTS SING DANCE ACT



GET READY FOR STAGE AND SCREEN

At CHB PERFORMING ARTS our students are trained in dance, drama and voice. We create a future in the performing arts and memories to last a lifetime.

Classes in Acting, Singing and Dance. Regular shows, audition preparation, all forms of theatre dance exams including WJDF Lyrical competitions and Trinity College exams in Acting and Musical Theatre

Private lessons in all disciplines and teacher training also available

To book your place and meet us please email info@chbperformingarts.biz or call 0845 0170825 for further details

All classes held at the Business and Sports Hub, Walsall College
www.chbperformingarts.biz

MULTIPRINT
Your *One-stop* Print Shop

25% OFF all STANNO and PRO STAR Football Kits

- Printed garments
- Embroidered garments
- Badges
- Ties
- Business gifts
- Banners
- Business stationery
- Leaflets and flyers
- Workwear
- Virtually anything printed we can do!

1 Town End Street, Walsall WS2 8LP
Tel: 01922 625651 Fax 01922 721357
email: info@multiprintuk.com
web: www.multiprintuk.com

For the Best in Professional Hairdressing...

Buddies
UNISEX HAIR DESIGN

- in appointments available
- Fashion Colouring • All Types of Foils • and Spiral Perming

Weddings & Special Occasions
Gents & Children Welcome

CONCESSION DAYS
Tuesday & Wednesday
Open 7.30am - 4pm Saturdays

01922 620086
16 The Victorian Arcade, Walsall, WS1 1RE

BARBERS NOW OPEN

Puddle Ducks
DAY NURSERY

We provide a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment for your child, developing an effective partnership between home and nursery. Food is prepared daily by our award winning cook and all our staff are fully qualified with a large percentage at degree level.

Spaces now available for Babies and Toddlers
All nursery staff are fully CRB checked
Our prices are competitive and Ofsted have rated us as 'Good'

Free places now available for 2, 3 & 4 year olds
Please feel free to visit us anytime
Call or email us for a full prospectus

01922 418955
our email is pgw@puddleducks-uk.co.uk
Hazel Lane, Great Wyrley, Walsall WS6 6AA

Select Windows
Est 1980
Windows, Doors and Conservatories

Double Glazed

Established 1980 - 36 YEARS IN BUSINESS
FREEPHONE 0800 328 3384

Head Office: Select House, Walsall Road, Walsall Wood, Walsall WS9 9AQ
Open: Monday-Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm; Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday by appointment only

www.selectwindows.co.uk

In an ever changing media landscape the 'ultra local' free weekly Chronicle titles remain a powerful force for advertisers. Local media is still the most effective platform for driving consumer action. Why not make our coverage and readership work for you and choose your audience from one or more of these Chronicles; Wolverhampton, Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Cannock, Sandwell and Walsall. For more information call our advertisement manager Kim Hazel on 01902 319660.

JULY

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

OCTOBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

DECEMBER

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

From a simple door swap to a full replacement kitchen...
Just give us a call...

Trusted reputation
FREE estimating & planning
Huge choice of worktops, doors, appliances, sinks & taps

DREAM DOORS
NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS
Call today for a FREE estimate: 01922 896241
Visit our showroom: 14 Beacon Buildings, Leighwood Road, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8AA
www.dreamdoors.co.uk

fires & fireplaces
Come and visit our new range of LOG BURNING STOVES.
Specialist supplier of the Newman Stoves

Specialists in finest quality bespoke Gas and Electric fires and surrounds
FULL FITTING, DELIVERY SERVICE AND FREE HOME SURVEY AVAILABLE

LARGE CAR PARK BEHIND DIZZY KIDZ
WE ARE HERE

Authorised Valor Centre and Elgin & Hall dealer

Open 6 Days a week 10am - 5pm Closed Sundays
Unit 6, Arrow Industrial Estate, Straight Road, Short Heath, Willenhall WV12 5RA
01922 475222
www.firesfireplaceswillenhall.co.uk

enoch evans LLP
Solicitors

St Paul's Chambers, 6-9 Hatherton Road, Walsall WS1 1XS
Tel: 01922 720333
Email: ee@enoch-evans.co.uk
www.enoch-evans.co.uk

Providing professional legal advice to businesses and individuals for over 130 years.

PELSALL
Windows & Glass Ltd
Established in 1989

Rollingmill Street Walsall WS2 9EQ

Call us now
01922 644226
info@pelsallwindows.co.uk

A MEMBER OF **FENSA** REGISTERED MEMBER NO.31948

Full Repair service available

NEED HELP WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD BILLS?

DON'T BURY YOUR HEAD!

Have No fear...**Stirlings** are here!
Bring us your unwanted jewellery & we give you **CASH!**
All Qualities and Quantities... Old or new, broken or damaged... We Buy it ALL!

JEWELLERY SALES
1 Victorian Arcade Walsall WS1 1RE

Stirlings
Jewellers (1984) Ltd
Telephone: 01922 623905

*** Stirlings a name you CAN trust ***

'ARRY'S GROUND FORCE

- Car Parks, Forecourts
- Complete Front & Back Garden Landscaping
- We also build extensions & conservatories
- 20% discount
- Tarmac
- Gravelling
- Trees Lopped
- Quality Paving
- Cotswold Stoning
- Ornamental Walls

All Work Carries 10 Year Guarantee
01922 405760 / 07720 348338
www.arrysgroundforce.co.uk

ARBORETUM
NURSING HOME & DAY CENTRE
Serving the local community in Walsall

- Entertainment Shopping Trips
- Close To Local Shops
- Trips To Theatre
- Food Provided For The Day
- Hairdressing Chiropody
- Transport Provided

Award Winner of the **Environment**

Come & see us for a **FREE VISIT**

FULLY QUALIFIED STAFF
Forest Lane, Walsall WS2 7AF Tel: 01922 746 940

SHORT HEATH TYRE SALES LTD

For All Your Tyre Needs
COMPETITIVE PRICES!
Phil Stanyer, formerley of Malvern Tyres
C/O Dale Ratledge Motor Services,
Unit 1, Arrow Industrial Estate, Straight Road, Willenhall WV12 5AE
01922 475563

GLIDE & SLIDE

QUALITY SLIDING DOOR SYSTEMS
FOR A FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE, PLEASE CALL US ON:
01543 679202 OR EMAIL: INFO@GLIDEANDSLIDE.CO.UK
• Made to order, with a large choice of colours and finishes
• Delivery direct to home or site • Available to trade and retail
See our website to view our full ranges and options
www.glideandslide.co.uk
Visit our showroom: Unit 3, Northgate Business Park, Northgate, Aldridge, Walsall WS9 8TH

Bathroom Warehouse

Come and see our large showroom
CALL NOW ON 01922 407778
4 Ezekiel Lane, Short Heath, Willenhall, WV12 5QU



NEED HELP WITH YOUR
HOUSEHOLD BILLS?

**DON'T BURY
YOUR HEAD!**

Have No fear...**Stirlings** are here!

Bring us your unwanted
jewellery & we give you
CASH!

All Qualities and Quantities... Old or new,
broken or damaged...**We Buy it ALL!**

**JEWELLERY
SALES**
1 Victorian Arcade
Walsall
WS1 1RE

stirlings*
Jewellers
(1984) Ltd

Telephone:
**01922
623905**

***** *Stirlings a name you CAN trust* *****

Shop local in...

*Walsall
&
Willenhall*



Furniture Nation 01922 711177 **SALE NOW ON**
25% OFF Specialists in Oak & Pine Furniture **FREE DELIVERY**
Open 7 days per week
BRAND NEW SOLID OAK RANGES IN!



Oak sideboards
from £269



Oak Tables and
Chairs from £299



Oak Bookcases
from £139



Oak Chests
from £199



Oak TV Units
from £179



Oak bedframes
from £75



Oak Coffee
Tables from £145



Oak Nests Of
Tables from £115



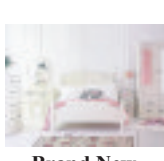
Oak Wardrobes
from £399



Oak Display
Cabinets from £440



Oak Beds
from £209



Brand New
White Bedroom
Furniture

www.furniturenation.co.uk
UNIT 3, ARROW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE
STRAIGHT ROAD, WILLENHALL
WEST MIDLANDS WV12 5AE

OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY 9AM - 5PM,
SATURDAY 9AM - 4PM
SUNDAY 11AM - 4PM



Select Windows Est 1980
Windows, Doors and Conservatories
WINTER SALE

WINDOWS INSTALLED FROM £200



Featuring Linar's unique
six-chamber frames to
put the most thermally
efficient windows within
reach of Select customers,
EnergyPlus windows:

- Utilise the latest technology to achieve U-values as low as 0.8 W/m²K
- Are made from the highest quality, 100% lead-free PVCu
- Offer enhanced security performance to PAS24:2012, meeting Part Q requirements

EnergyPlus setting new standards
ESTABLISHED 1980 - 36 YEARS IN BUSINESS

FREEPHONE 0800 328 3384



**MASSIVE SAVINGS
ON ENERGY EFFICIENT
WINDOWS & DOORS**



**COMPOSITE
DOORS FITTED
FROM £650**

Head Office: Select House, Walsall Road, Walsall Wood, Walsall WS9 9AQ
Open: Monday-Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm; Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday by appointment only

www.selectwindows.co.uk



fast the ticket

It's a
ballroom
blitz...

See Page 25

M NATIVE MONSTER
Entertainment Unleashed

For full listings see **Express & Star** every Friday

Passion for
Food

To advertise please call
Debbie Tavner 01543 465333 or
Sharon Oscar 01543 465335

ITALIAN HEALTHY KITCHEN

Sofias
ITALIAN RESTAURANT

Dine in style at our
Exquisite Italian Restaurant

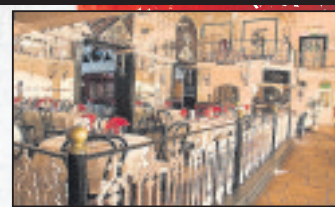
**SPECIAL
OFFER**

2 course meal just

£9.95pp

*Serving fresh pasta,
pizza, fish, steak salad,
Home-made Desserts &
Fabulous Afternoon Teas*

The exquisite
Guildhall, 8 High Street,
Walsall WS1 1QW



BOOK NOW Limited availability
01922 632 223
www.sofias-italian.co.uk
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Advertise in
this space...

Please Call
Debbie Tavner on
01543 465333
or Sharon Oscar on
01543 465335



Lucy o-Kay with range of big roles

Lucy Kay shot to fame when she sang her way to the final of Britain's Got Talent in 2014.

The 27-year-old's singing career duly delivered, securing a record deal with Sony and then her debut album, *Fantasia*, shooting to No1 on the classical music charts.

She performed the national anthem for the 2014 Community Shield football match at Wembley in front of 80,000 alongside one of the most iconic and influential performers in opera, Andrea Bocelli.

She then topped off a remarkable year with a performance fit for royalty, singing in front of Prince Andrew, Sarah Ferguson and their two daughters along with a long line of A-listers at a private dinner held at Windsor Castle in aid of Children in Crisis.

It has been a real rags to riches story for this year's Wolverhampton pantomime princess.

It wasn't always glitz and glamour for the Leicester-born singer, who admits growing up was difficult without her father, who left when she was a baby, and bullies made much of her early life miserable. She said: "Growing up was a struggle, my childhood wasn't one you'd hope for for your children. With my dad leaving when I was born, I took that hard and assumed it was my fault."

"Apparently as I was growing up, I was always asking strangers, men, if they were my dad, which for my mum was really embarrassing. From that, when I used to make friends I used to be more needy than most, people took advantage of that which set me up for being bullied. We moved to quite a poor area of Mansfield where I got bullied for being from a different area."

"Then when I started singing, as it was classical, I got bullied for that too."

"As well as the mental abuse, there was physical abuse, I have scars from cigarettes they put out on my chest."

"It got to a point in my life where I thought, 'I'm not sure if I want to be here', and it's sad for a child to think like that."

While school bullies may have fulfilled the role of the cruel step-sisters as in Cinderella, there was a trio of strong women who stepped forward to play the role of the fairy godmother. Her mother, Glenis, proved to be a supportive role model throughout her youth and Lucy confesses it was her encouragement which got her to where she is.

Other contenders for the role include Pamela Cook, founder of Cantamus, the choir she would later join. "She helped me

financially and to get to uni, she unfortunately passed away before I went on Britain's Got Talent, she would have been proud."

Elaine Guy, also from the choir group, home-tutored Lucy free of charge to resit her GCSEs and take her A-levels so she'd get into music college. She'd failed her GCSEs first time round down to the bullying she suffered.

Lucy's big break came when she appeared in front of 2,000 people and four intimidating judges on TV show Britain's Got Talent, with 11 million people watching at home.

An edited version of proceedings didn't show Lucy sing Who Wants To Live Forever by Queen, a song chosen by the BGT producers. It was a track she wasn't comfortable singing, resulting in Simon Cowell stopping her, telling it was a bad audition and asked her for another song.

What made the cut was her version of opera song Vissi d'arte, leaving the audience and judges stunned and a standing ovation followed.

Successful

She finished runner-up in the competition and then went on to sing on several successful tours proving hugely popular as a contemporary soprano. However this year Lucy took to the stage in a different form – as the narrator in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat, which proved popular at the Grand Theatre.

She said: "I was really nervous at Joseph but I got through it and I had good reviews fortunately – I had a week to learn everything."

As in all fairytales, it's happily ever after for Lucy as she's currently playing Princess Jasmine in Aladdin and thriving in her latest role.

She said: "I love the cast in Aladdin, we all get on so well and we have a good laugh when things go wrong too, which is really important."

And Lucy is enjoying her second stay in Wolverhampton, after doing a bit of Christmas shopping in the city this week. "The Grand is a really nice venue with the revamp and Bohemians [situated across Lichfield Street] is a great bar, I love it there. Slater's is really nice too, we had our Christmas party there, everyone was really friendly."

Aladdin runs at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre until January 22.

Tickets can be bought from the box office in person or by calling 01902 42 92 12 or online at grandtheatre.co.uk

By Doug Wootton

For the full interview, visit www.expressandstar.com/entertainment/



Lucy in her role at the Grand Theatre



**ANTIQUE COLLECTORS
& VINTAGE FAIR**
UTTOXETER RACECOURSE
(SAT NAV ST14 8BD) A518 / A38 / SIGNPOSTED A50
SATURDAY/SUNDAY
7TH & 8TH JANUARY
100 + STALLS INSIDE +
OUTSIDE PITCHES
10AM - 4PM ADM.£1.50
CHILDREN FREE
PLENTY OF FREE PARKING
ANTIQUE FORUM
01782 393660 / 07921659798

THE ORIGINAL OVER 50'S DANCE PARTY
THE PAVILION SUITE
Moor Lane (off A453 College Road)
B'ham, B6 7AA. DATES NOT TO BE MISSED (keep for you)
CLUB CLASSICS
20's 30's 40's 50's
FRI 13 JAN
FRI 10 FEB
FRI 10 MAR
FRI 14 APR
MOTOWN SOUL
60's 70's 80's HITS
FRI 27 JAN
FRI 24 FEB
FRI 24 MAR
FRI 28 APR
FREE M'SHIP - ID REQ. TO JOIN. admission £4.95 £7.00
last admission 11.45 VERY SMART CASUAL. NO E-SKIRTS or T-SHIRTS
www.tamiamotownsoulnightpartynights.co.uk

**TOY AND TRAIN
COLLECTOR'S FAIR**
Oak Park Living Centre
Coppice Road, Walsall Wood WS8 7DG
SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY 2017
10.30 am - 3.00 pm
OVER 65 TABLES
Toys, Cars and Trains, etc.
Old and New
Admission: Adults £1.80 Seniors £1.50
Children £1.00
TRANSTAR PROMOTIONS
(01922) 643385

**Passion for
Food**
To advertise please call
Debbie Tavner 01543 465333 or
Sharon Oscar 01543 465335

Gales free

Unfortunately, you have to go through some things to be free', says Memphis-born Eric Gales.

"Now, I feel the most free I've ever been in life, even more so than when I was a kid," he opens up. "You gotta help yourself man, once you can help yourself you can genuinely help someone else."

His new album, *Middle Of The Road*, will be released on February 24. "It's about being fully focussed and centred in the middle of the road. If you're on the wrong side and in the gravel you're not too good and if you're on the median strip that's not too good either, so being in the middle of the road is the best place to be."

It is Gales' fourth album on Provogue/Mascot label Group after Transformation (2011), Relentless (2010) and The Psychedelic Underground (2007) and it sees him at his most expressive yet. It is a deeply personal and reflective record that echoes where he is in his life right now and he opens himself up and allows himself the chance to really flourish.

It's well documented that Gales was a child prodigy and heralded as the second coming of Jimi Hendrix when he released his debut album *The Eric Gales Band* in 1991 as a 16-year-old on Elektra Records. It was the first of 10 albums on a major label through a blistering career. He has released 14 studio albums in total ahead of *Middle of the Road* and a host of other collaborations, one of which led him to work with producer Fabrizio Grossi.

Lie-in King

A funnyman described by one national newspaper as 'unquestionably the best observational comic of his generation' is heading to Telford.

Lie-in King Seann Walsh has also been described as 'one of comedy's hottest properties...very talented, very funny'.

He has also previously toured successful show Ying and Young with fellow comedian Josh Widdicombe.

He will bring his new show to Oakengates Theatre @ The Place on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at 8pm.

Venue spokesman Chris Kowalik said: "As star of Channel 4's Stand Up For The Week and BBC1's Live At The Apollo, you might have seen Seann on TV, but he's something else live – pacing the stage, working the room and reducing crowds to hysterics. Even if he'd probably rather be at home watching Sky Sports News."

The show received positive press after being unveiled at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and fans can look forward to the usual oddball looks at everyday life from Seann.

Tickets for The Lie-in King at Oakengates Theatre @ The Place are £15.

They are on sale now and can be booked online at www.theplaceatelford.co.uk or by calling the box office on 01952 382382, or in person at the theatre or Southwater One in Telford Town Centre.

Hungry show

One of the most iconic characters in children's literature will be arriving in Birmingham next month when The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show plays at New Alexandra Theatre for two nights from Monday, January 30 following a West End run.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar Show will feature a menagerie of 75 enchanting puppets during a magical 60-minute show that faithfully adapts four of Eric Carle's best-loved books for the stage: *The Artist Who Painted A Blue Horse*, *Mister Seahorse*, *The Very Lonely Firefly* and, of course, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. Eric Carle's books have captivated generations of readers with their iconic hand-painted illustrations and distinctively simple stories, introducing millions of children to a bigger, brighter world, and to their first experience of reading itself.

His best-known work, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, has nibbled its way into the hearts of millions of children all over the world. It has been translated into 62 languages and sold more than 43 million copies, remaining one of the top 10 best-selling children's books of all time.

Since it was first published in 1969, Eric Carle has illustrated more than 70 books, most of which he also wrote, and more than 132 million copies of his books have sold around the world.

Strictly special start to the year



The Strictly Come Dancing glitterball champions 2016 Ore Oduba and Joanne Clifton, who will be replaced by Karen Clifton

THE final line-up for has been announced for the Strictly Come Dancing Live Tour – including dates later this month in Birmingham.

The show will feature 2016 winner Ore Oduba but instead of his glitterball winning partner Joanne Clifton, he will be dancing with her fellow professional (and sister-in-law) Karen Clifton.

Joanne is preparing to star in the

UK tour of musical Thoroughly Modern Millie, which visits Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre in February.

Also in the Strictly show from January 20 to 22 at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena will be Louise Redknapp with Kevin Clifton, Danny Mac and Oti Mabuse, people's favourite Ed Balls with Katya Jones, Daisy Lowe and Aljaž Skorjanec and Lesley Joseph with Gorka Marquez.

Completing the line-up are professional dancers Giovanni Pernice, Janette Manrara, AJ Pritchard, Chloe

Hewitt, Oksana Platero and Neil Jones. The celebrities and pro dancers will be joined by judges Len Goodman, Craig Revel Horwood, who also directs the show, and Karen Hardy. The 2017 tour host is Anita Rani.

The show kicks off in Birmingham on Friday (20) at 7.30pm, Saturday (21) at 2.30pm and 7.30pm and Sunday (22) at 1.30pm and 6.30pm. Tickets are on sale from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. For more information, visit www.strictlycomedancinglive.com



Comeback king Craig

HIS was one of the biggest comeback stories of 2016.

Craig David returned to fame with his latest album, Following My Intuition, released in September. It gave him his first No.1 record since his debut, Born To Do It, in 2000.

The singer will build on that success this year when he hits the UK for an arena tour, including Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on March 24. He has sold more than 15 million albums, achieved 16 Top 10 hits and multi-platinum status in more than 20 countries. The star has been nominated for 12 Brit Awards, including three times for Best British Male.

Fifteen years ago, he was one of the biggest stars in Britain – then almost overnight Bo' Selecta! Turned him into a national joke. "That whole Bo' Selecta! thing wasn't affecting me the way people thought; I just wanted to get on with making music. But I know there were a lot of mixed messages from me. I let the music do the talking," says Craig, who moved to Miami and lived the superstar lifestyle.

"I enjoyed my time and I'm not going to paint myself as an angel. I had an amazing time. But was it fulfilling? No. Did I find myself in any of it? No. Were the quality of the relationships great? Not really. I've got this renewed love for music and being back in that melting pot. The UK is so where it's at, you can't help but feed off all the different styles.

"The last Number 1 I had was with Born To Do It 16 years ago so to have another and to share it with so many amazing people – it's surreal."

Muscom all shook up by Elvis songs

WOLVERHAMPTON Musical Comedy Company (Muscom) will return to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre this spring with a musical based on the hits of Elvis Presley.

All Shook Up will run from March 14 to 18 and has a story based on the Shakespeare's Twelfth Night but set in 1950s America.

University of Oxford student Liam Sargeant will play guitar-playing roustabout Chad, who rides into squaresville to turn the life of lovely young mechanic Natalie, played by Katie Astbury, upside down. The pair also starred together in Muscom's Legally Blonde in 2015.

Goodfellas back on the big screen

FANS of Martin Scorsese's classic gangster movie Goodfellas can relive it on the big screen at Vue Cinema venues across the country after the 1990 film got a 4k restoration.

On January 22 and 26 Goodfellas will be reissued as part of the BFI's season dedicated to director Martin Scorsese at Star City, off the M6.

It tells the violent story of mobsters Jimmy Conway (Robert De Niro) and the volatile Tommy DeVito (Joe Pesci) who introduce recruit Henry Hill (Ray Liotta) to the Italian-American underworld. Screenings are at 7.30pm on both days. See www.myvue.com

Jump and jive with King Pleasure

KING Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys' zany stage show sometimes belies the fact that they are one of the finest bands celebrating early rhythm and blues bands to come from outside the USA.

The Brum-based band carries a guarantee of great swinging music and high entertainment value and last year the high-octane jump and jive outfit were spreading their message throughout Europe promoting their 11th CD Live at Last.

King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys are performing at Artrix Theatre in Bromsgrove on Saturday, then at Bilston's Robin 2 on January 26 with Ricky Cool.

Luxury Coach Holidays

Britain's Finest Coach Tour Fleet



Visit our **OPEN DAY**

On Sunday 8th January 2017
10am until 3pm

Fantastic Offers and
Holiday Show
Free Admission

- British Coach Holidays
- Quality European Tours
- London Theatre Weekends
- Ireland



NEW 2017 BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE
Or view online at parrys-international.co.uk

Landywood Green, Cheslyn Hay, WS6 7QX

CALL 01922 414576



CHRONICLE



GET A REAL
RESPONSE BY
ADVERTISING
IN THIS
SPACE

★★★★
MOOR HALL Hotel & Spa
WEDDING OPEN DAY
SUNDAY 8TH JANUARY
11AM - 3PM

Exclusive Offers!

FREE ENTRY — VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER

You are invited to come along and see exactly how lovely your wedding day could be at Moor Hall Hotel & Spa. The Charter Suite will be fully dressed for a wedding breakfast with crisp linen, bright cutlery and gleaming glassware, a room will be set for a civil ceremony, you will be able to view the four poster bedrooms, take a look at the leisure facilities and spa, wander the grounds and chat to our experienced wedding co-ordinators who can advise on every aspect of your very special day.

**Book your 2017/18 wedding and we'll give you
free chair covers or 2 free bedrooms!***

*Minimum numbers apply.

Visit www.moorhallhotel.co.uk to see our wedding photo gallery.

Moor Hall Drive, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield
T: 0121 308 3751 www.moorhallhotel.co.uk



CHOICE



Tom Hardy

Taboo (BBC1, 9.15pm)
New series. Historical drama starring Tom Hardy as adventurer James Delaney, who reappears in London in 1814 after being presumed dead in Africa many years before, and seeks vengeance for the death of his father. Set to inherit what is left of his family's shipping empire, his arrival not only threatens to disrupt the plans of his half-sister Zilpha and her husband Thorne, but also the political ambitions of the mighty East India Company, chaired by Sir Stuart Strange. Oona Chaplin, Jefferson Hall and Jonathan Pryce also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live.** **11.30 The Best Dishes Ever.** (R) **12.00 Football Focus.** **1.00 BBC News;** Weather. **1.15 Live Athletics** – Great Edinburgh Gross Country. Coverage from Holyrood Park. **3.30 Escape to the Country.** (R) **4.00 Final Score.** **5.20 BBC News.** **5.30 Regional Programme.** **5.40 Celebrity Mastermind.** Famous faces settle into the black chair to answer questions on their chosen subjects. The second round sees them putting their general knowledge to the test in a bid to carry off the commemorative trophy. **6.10 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a Radio 2-themed edition of the unorthodox quiz, featuring Jo Whaley, Jeremy Vine, Zoe Ball, Michael Ball, Ken Bruce, Anika Rice, Vanessa Feltz and Craig Charles. With a performance by Mika. **7.00 Let It Shine.** New series. Talent search to find five performers to play the role of a boy band in a new nationwide touring musical, featuring the music of Take That. In this first episode, the hopefuls audition solo in front of the judging panel, made up of Gary Barlow, Dannii Minogue, Martin Kemp and Amber Riley, and perform before a studio audience in Manchester. **8.25 Casualty.** Dylan becomes the source of gossip after Seb's allegation, but Max and Jez are determined to help him and try to record Seb confessing his guilt. Alicia and Ethan wake up together in blissful happiness, but are forced to face the consequences of their actions, and Connie spots something in Grace's medical notes that leads her to reporting Elle to the GMC. **9.15 Taboo.** New series. Historical drama starring Tom Hardy as adventurer James Delaney, who reappears in London in 1814 after being presumed dead in Africa many years before. **10.10 BBC News;** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights from the third round of the FA Cup, including Manchester United v Reading, Everton v Leicester City and Sutton United v AFC Wimbledon. **12.00 Film:** The Double. (2011) **1.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Coast. (R) **6.50 Film:** No Minor Vices. (1948) **8.25 Film:** Angels One Five. (1953) **10.00 Secret Britain.** (R) **11.00 Homes Under the Hammer.** (R) **12.00 Exploring China:** A Culinary Adventure. (R) **1.00 Child Stars:** Talking Pictures. (R) **1.35 Film:** Omarron. (1960) Western, starring Glenn Ford. **4.00 Mastermind.** (R) **4.30 University Challenge.** (R) **5.00 Only Connect.** (R) **5.30 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes.** (R) **6.30 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise.** Exploring the wildlife and culture of the Southeast Asian nation. The first episode examines the south of the country, a popular tourist destination for Westerners, and examines the role of spirituality in daily life. Narrated by Sophie Okonedo. (R) **7.30 Britain's Ancient Capital: Secrets of Orkney.** An investigation into how recent archaeological finds on the archipelago indicate that Orkney was the cultural capital of Stone Age Britain and the birthplace of the stone circle cult. Chris Packham uncovers the secrets revealed by the DNA of Orkney's unique vole. Neil Oliver explores tombs and monuments, Shini Somara experiments to discover how ancient Orcadians could have moved giant blocks of stone over rough ground, and Andy Torbet climbs a challenging sea-stack to unlock the story of Orkney's unusual geology. (R) **8.30 Dad's Army.** With the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard now established, Captain Mainwaring sets about trying to get equipment for the platoon. (R) **9.00 Bowie: The Last Five Years.** A portrait of David Bowie, told by the people who knew him best – his friends and artistic collaborators. It also takes a detailed look at his last albums The Next Day and Blackstar, and his play Lazarus. Through the prism of this last work, the film shows how, in his final five years, Bowie not only began producing music again but returned to the core and defining themes of his career. Among the contributors are Tony Visconti, Toni Basil and Michael C Hall. **10.30 Film: The Man Who Fell to Earth.** (1976) Nicolas Roeg's sci-fi drama, starring David Bowie. **12.45 Film:** Walkabout. (1971) **2.20** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids.** (R) **6.25 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35 Dino Dan:** Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45 Sooty.** (R) **6.55 Signed Stories:** Share a Story. (R) **7.00 Super 4.** (R) **7.15 Oddbods.** (R) **7.20 Oddbods.** (R) **7.30 Scrambled!:** Scrambled! **7.35 Scrambled!:** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.55 Scrambled!:** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10 Scrambled!:** The Powerpuff Girls. (R) **8.30 Scrambled!:** Bear Grylls Survival School. **9.05 Scrambled!:** Adventure Time. (R) **9.25 ITV News.** **9.30 Thunderbirds Are Go.** **10.00 Rebound.** (R) **11.00 Guess This House.** (R) **12.00 Bargain Shop Wars.** (R) **12.25 ITV News;** Weather. **12.30 Judge Rinder.** (R) **1.35 Film: Kindergarten Cop.** (1990) Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **3.40 Morecambe and Wise's Funniest Moments.** (R) **5.35 Regional Programme** - Weather. **5.45 ITV News;** Weather. **6.00 You've Been Framed! Unchained!** **7.00 Ninja Warrior UK.** Competitors from across the UK test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shepherd, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. **8.00 The Voice UK.** New series. The singing contest returns, although the singings have changed. Much like the spinning chairs at the centre of the show, the former BBC One programme has done a 180-degree turn and is now part of ITV's prime-time Saturday. There are also new coaches as Jennifer Hudson – the US singer and actress who rose to fame on American Idol – and Gavin Rossdale, singer and guitarist with rock band Bush – join old hands Will.i.am and Tom Jones. Fans will also be relieved that host Emma Willis is back to keep things ticking over. As usual, things kick off with the blind auditions, in which the coaches sit with their backs to the would-be singing stars, selecting the ones they like by vocal ability alone. **9.35 Through the Keyhole.** Keith Lemon visits mystery celebrity homes and challenges this week's panel – Fearnie Cotton, Will Mellor and Judge Rinder – to guess the identities of the famous owners. **10.30 ITV News;** Weather. **10.45 Film: Jaws: The Revenge.** (1987) **12.25 Jackpot247.** **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.00 The King of Queens.** (R) **7.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond.** (R) **8.20 Frasier.** (R) **8.50 Frasier.** (R) **9.20 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **9.50 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **10.15 The Simpsons.** (R) **10.45 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.15 The Simpsons.** (R) **11.45 A New Life in the Sun.** (R) **12.45 Darts:** BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. The opening day of the BDO World Championship. **5.30 Speed** with Guy Martin. (R) **7.00 Channel 4 News.** **7.30 Britain's Favourite TV Detectives.** Documentary seeking to identify Britain's favourite on-screen detective via a YouGov poll. These fictional crime-fighters have been a staple of TV schedules for more than half a century, and as the results of the poll count down to reveal the UK's most cherished TV sleuth, New Tricks stars Amanda Redman and Dennis Waterman, Stargate & Hutch's David Soul, and Foyle's War creator Anthony Horowitz discuss the enduring appeal of a good mystery. **9.00 Film: Ride Along.** (2014) Premiere. A wannabe police officer persuades his girlfriend's tough detective brother to take him along on duty. The cop hopes to scare his unwanted partner away from his sister by exposing him to danger – but needs some help when the patrol leads to a run-in with the city's most wanted criminal. Comedy, starring Ice Cube, Kevin Hart and Laurence Fishburne. **10.55 Film: The Mechanic.** (2011) A solitary hitman teaches his murdered mentor's son the tricks of the trade so they can join forces to seek vengeance. Action thriller remake, starring Jason Statham. **12.45 Darren Brown: Infamous.** The illusionist's sell-out stage show recorded at the Grand Theatre in Leeds. (R) **2.15 Hollyoaks: Omnibus.** Ryan tells Mercedes that he is being blackmailed over their night together, and Tom is guilt-ridden when he hears about Sally's money troubles since Jude's scam. **4.20 Shipping Wars UK.** Stu and Jenna transport a sailing boat from Cornwall to North Yorkshire. (R) **5.05 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** Creating a romantic bedroom. (R) **5.20 The Restoration Man.** George Clarke reveals the restoration of water mill in Northumberland. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55 The Fairly OddParents.** (R) **10.30 The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **11.25 The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **12.25 The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **1.20 The Hotel Inspector.** (R) **2.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **3.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **4.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **5.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** (R) **6.15 NCIS: Los Angeles.** New series. The agents search for Hetty in Romania and stake out the Comescu beach house, hoping to confirm she is alive. Real-time episode, starring Chris O'Donnell. **7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles.** The CEO of a software company linked to a cyber-attack against the Department of Defence is kidnapped, and Kensi and Deeks go undercover to protect the man's family after fears over their safety. Meanwhile, Callen continues to research his past. **8.00 NCIS.** New series. The American crime drama following the work of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service returns, as Gibbs fights for his life on board a US Navy hospital ship after being shot. Meanwhile, DiNozzo and Joanna Teague head for Shanghai, where they hope to take down the leaders of the terrorist group known as The Calling. Starring Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly and Mimi Rogers. **8.55 5 News Weekend.** **9.00 Celebrity Big Brother.** Highlights of the residents' past 24 hours under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, as they try to get used to their housemates' quirks and foibles while also coping with the day-to-day complications of life inside the house. **10.00 Film: Sex Tape.** (2014) Premiere. A couple try to spice up their marriage by filming themselves having sex, but then have to stop anyone from seeing the footage. Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Jason Segel. Including 5 News Update at 11pm. **11.50 Lip Sync Battle UK: Danny Dyer vs Craig Revel Horwood.** Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as actor Danny Dyer and dancer Craig Revel Horwood go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R) **12.15 SuperCasino.** **3.10** Celebrity Big Brother. (R) **4.00** World's Strongest Man 2016. (R) **4.50** Divine Designs. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Why the Industrial Revolution Happened Here **8.00** The Magic of Mushrooms **9.00** Lost Kingdoms of Central America **10.00** The Young Montalbano **11.50** An Evening with Sammy Davis Jr **12.50** Sammy Davis Jr: The Kid in the Middle **1.50** Sing the Great American Songbook **2.55** An Evening with Sammy Davis Jr **3.50** Close **ITV2**
11.55 Take Me Out Celebrity Special **12.55** Ninja Warrior UK **1.55** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **2.55** FYI Daily **3.00** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.45** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50** Film: Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore (2010) **5.25** Film: King Kong (2005) **6.25** FYI Daily **6.30** Film: King Kong (2005) **9.00** Film: The Bourne Supremacy (2004) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Bourne Supremacy (2004) **11.15** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.40** Dads **2.05** Safesword **2.40** The Hot Desk: Caroline Flack **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
11.15 Inspector Morse **6.05** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Lewis **1.40** Blue Murder **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
11.00 Film: Shalako (1968) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** Film: Shalako (1968) **1.20** Sporting Funnies **1.30** ITV Racing Live from Sandown. Coverage of races from Sandown and Wincanton. **4.00** Pawn Stars **6.50** Mr Bean **8.00** River Monsters **9.00** Film: Cliffhanger (1993) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: Cliffhanger (1993) **11.15** Film: On Deadly Ground (1994) **12.15** FYI Daily **12.20** Film: On Deadly Ground (1994) **1.20** Minder **2.20** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **E4**
11.00 Black-ish **12.00** Film: A Monster in Paris (2011) **1.45** Rude-ish (Tub Shorts) **2.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Speed (1994) **11.20** Gogglebox **1.30** Rude Tube: Welcome to 2017 **3.25** New Girl **4.10** Suburgatory **4.55** Revenge **Film4**
11.00 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **1.00** The Family Stone (2005) **3.05** Fast Girls (2012) **4.50** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **7.00** Volcano (1997) **9.00** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013) **11.45** Baskin (2015) **1.40** Wake in Fright (1971) **4.00** Close

Star Reader
Hand picked holidays with you in mind



Return coach travel from Brownhills, Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton and West Bromwich

FLOWERING EVENTS

Whether you're a green-fingered gardening guru, a floral art fanatic or a nervous horticultural novice, there's inspiration galore to be had at Britain's favourite flower and garden shows.

BEST
SELLER!

CHELSEA

Flower Show and Oxford

Departing Friday 26 May 2017

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star outer London/Reading hotel with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show, with coach transfer
- ✓ Free time in Oxford



2 days, by coach

Only **£199**.^{95pp}

Quote Code: PPW936



View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/PPW936

Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

FLORIMANIA

at Hampton Court & Windsor



Quote Code: FLG106

Departing Saturday 25 March 2017

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission to Florimania and Hampton Court Palace and grounds

2 days, by coach
only **£139**.^{95pp}

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/FLG106

Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

The perfect treat for mums
everywhere on this Mother's Day weekend.

Quote Code: VMX232

CHATSWORTH

Flower Show and Harrogate

Departing Saturday 10 June 2017



Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star Yorkshire area hotel with 3-course dinner and full English breakfast
- ✓ Admission to the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show
- ✓ Free time in Harrogate

2 days, by coach
only **£149**.^{95pp}

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/VMX232

Single room supplements £30pp. Subject to availability.

For more information
or to book, please call:

01902 902165

OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00
SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782.



OmegaHols

@OmegaHols

OmegaHols

CHOICE



Ashley Banjo (left)

Dance Dance Dance (TV, 6.30pm)
New series. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host a celebrity dance contest. The show features five famous contestants, who are unconfirmed at the time of going to press, each of whom will be paired with a dance partner. The couples will take on the challenge of recreating iconic dance routines featured in movies or music videos. Ashley Banjo, leader of street dance troupe Diversity, and choreographers Tina Landon and Timor Steffens make up the panel of expert judges who will be assessing their talents on the dance floor.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News: Weather. 1.15 Songs of Praise. 1.50 Escape to the Country. (R) 2.35 Life in the Show. (R) 3.35 Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa (Kick-off 4.00pm).**
6.05 BBC News.
6.20 Regional Programme.
6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker examines how the Shropshire landscape has been shaped by the history of mining, and Anita Rani visits a camping site that has been set up in a scrap yard. Adam Henson presents the first in a series of reports from New Zealand. Charlotte Smith examines a rise in dementia in rural communities, and chef Michael Caines goes camping in Dartmoor. Including weather for the week ahead.
7.30 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a second visit to Tewkesbury Abbey in Gloucestershire. The experts examine a heavy Tudor table that requires six men to move it, an extensive collection of Maundy money, a signed picture of Chairman Mao by Andy Warhol, and a rare 18th-century painted silk dress that has been left in a dressing up box for 50 years.
8.30 Still Open All Hours. Eric, Cyril and Mr Newbold try to prove they have it in them to be exciting, while Granville tries to shift a consignment of mints that are past their sell by date.
9.00 Sherlock. The detective faces a dangerous new enemy in the seemingly unassailable Culverton Smith, a man whose position of power conceals a terrible secret. Estranged from John, Sherlock must confront his demons to defeat his enemy's plans. Toby Jones guest stars as the villain.
10.30 BBC News.
10.50 Regional Programme.
11.00 MOTD: FA Cup Highlights. A review of the latest third-round matches, featuring Tottenham Hotspur v Aston Villa and Liverpool v Plymouth Argyle or Newport County.
12.05 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. 1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.35 BBC News.

BBC2

**6.10 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 6.55 Big Dreams Small Spaces. (R) 7.55 An Island Parish. (R) 8.25 The Edible Garden. (R) 8.55 Countryfile. (R) 9.55 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.25 The Good Cook. (R) 11.55 Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) 12.25 Richard Harris: Talking Pictures. (R) 1.00 Film: Cromwell. (1970) Historical drama, starring Richard Harris and Alec Guinness. 3.15 Flog It! (R) 4.15 Life in Polar Bear Town with Gordon Buchanan. (R) 5.15 Yellowstone: The Wildest Winter. (R)
6.15 Ski Sunday. All the news, gossip and action from the piste.
7.00 School Swap: Korea Style. Part one of two. Three teenagers from Pembrokeshire swap their classrooms, teachers and parents for a school in South Korea, which boasts one of the best education systems in the world – and one of the toughest. For three days, they live and breathe Korean education to find out the secret to its success. Can they hack it? Sian Griffiths presents.
8.00 Dragons' Den. Evan Davis presents the business ideas contest, with panellists Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Sarah Willingham and Nick Jenkins examining the profit-making potential of inflatable igloos, a restaurant serving meat-free hot dogs, and a new kind of poop-scooper. Presented by Evan Davis.
9.00 Thailand: Earth's Tropical Paradise. Exploring the forests, plains and bustling cities of Central Thailand, an area known as the nation's rice bowl. The programme explores how people live alongside animals in these areas, and the spiritual fulfilment to be found in these relationships. Narrated by Sophie Okonedo.
10.00 Film: A Most Violent Year. (2014) Premiere. An immigrant living in New York in 1981 struggles to keep his business going against an unrelenting rise in violent crime. Thriller, with Oscar Isaac and Jessica Chastain.
12.00 OI XL. With Phill Jupitus, Holly Walsh and Nish Kumar. **12.45 Sign Zone: Countryfile.** Anita Rani visits Malham Cove in the Yorkshire Dales, where she climbs a cliff face and meets an artist pursuing a family tradition. (R) **1.45 Holby City. (R) 2.40 This Is BBC Two.** Preview of upcoming programmes.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) 6.50 Sooty. (R) 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 7.00 Super 4. (R) 7.15 Oddbods. (R) 7.20 Oddbods. (R) 7.30 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.35 Scrambled! Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) 7.55 Scrambled! Horrid Henry. (R) 8.10 Scrambled! The Powerpuff Girls. (R) 8.30 Scrambled! Thunderbirds Are Go. 9.05 Scrambled! Adventure Time. (R) 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Film: Carry On Up the Jungle. (1970) **11.15 Chopping Block. (R) 12.15 ITV News. 12.25 Tipping Point. (R) 1.25 Ninja Warrior UK. (R) 2.30 The Voice UK. (R) 4.00 The Big Soap Quiz: Coronation Street vs Emmerdale. (R) 5.00 Regional Programme. 5.15 ITV News. 5.30 Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera. Alastair Stewart presents a selection of extraordinary eyewitness footage filmed by members of the public, featuring a wedding that was ruined by a sandstorm, the rescue of a fox cub from a drain, cyclists being chased by an ostrich, a train that crashed into a truck at a level crossing, a paraglider's painful crash landing, and a musical moment that raised thousands for charity and started an 80-year-old grandfather's recording career.
6.30 Dance Dance Dance. New series. Alesha Dixon and Will Best host a dance contest in which celebrities recreate famous routines from movies and music videos to impress a panel of expert judges.
8.00 Endeavour. New series. In the summer of 1967, Morse and Thursday are both devastated by Joan's abrupt departure from Oxford. The young detective responds to his loss by throwing himself into his work, investigating the suspicious drowning of a scientist who was part of a research team working on an early computer. At first it appears to be a simple suicide – until two more bodies are found in the river.
10.00 ITV News: Weather.
10.15 Robson Crusoe: A Surprising Adventure. Inspired by Daniel Defoe's classic novel Robinson Crusoe, cameras follow actor and presenter Robson Green as he fends for himself on a desert island in the South China Sea. (R)
11.10 Premiership Rugby Union. 12.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 Chopping Block. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 The King of Queens. (R) 6.40 The King of Queens. (R) 7.05 The King of Queens. (R) 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.25 Frasier. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 Darts: BDO Lakeside World Professional Championships. The second day of the BDO World Championships. 5.30 Find It, Fix It, Flog It. (R)
6.15 Channel 4 News.
6.30 Britain's Wildest Weather 2016. Footage of unusual weather conditions recorded in Britain during 2016, and exploring the factors that led to these incidents. The programme features footage recorded by people caught in the middle of floods, super-storms, tornadoes and lightning strikes, as well as a look at how a record level El Niño effect altered Britain's weather. (R)
8.00 Walking the Americas. New series. Levison Wood goes on a four-month trek across Central America, travelling 1,800 miles from Mexico to Colombia. The journey begins in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, where he and his guide Alberto explore the remains of the Mayan Civilisation, including a sinkhole containing the remains of sacrificial victims. They move on to the island of San Pedro and the jungles where Levison was trained as a soldier, before braving the lawless wilderness of El Peten in Guatemala, where most of America's cocaine is trafficked.
9.00 Film: The Hunger Games: Mockingjay – Part 1. (2014) Premiere. Katniss Everdeen is brought to a secretive underground society following the destruction of the televised deathmatch. She becomes the figurehead of a revolution against the despotic Panem regime, while her friend Peeta remains a captive of its tyrannical president. Part one of the two-part conclusion to the sci-fi adventure series, starring Jennifer Lawrence.
11.20 The Big Fat Quiz of Everything. Jonathan Ross, David Walliams, Katherine Ryan, Aisling Bea, Noel Fielding and Richard Ayoade answer Jimmy Carr's questions on the past 100,000 years of human history. (R)
1.25 How to Lose Weight Well. (R) 2.25 The Secret Life of 4 Year Olds. (R) 3.15 The Autistic Gardener. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Milkshake! Monkey. 6.05 Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) 6.10 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.15 Bob the Builder. (R) 6.25 Wanda and the Alien. (R) 6.35 Zack and Quack. (R) 6.50 Seaside Antics. (R) 6.55 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.10 Pop Ahoy! (R) 7.30 Little Princess. (R) 7.45 Big Bash Cricket Live. Hobart Hurricanes v Melbourne Stars. 11.30 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 3. (R) **12.30 Film: Holy Man. (1998) Satirical comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **2.35 Film: The Kid. (2000)** Disney comedy, starring Bruce Willis. **4.35 Film: Legally Blonde. (2001)** Comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon.
6.25 Film: Along Came Polly. (2004) An obsessively cautious man, whose wife left him on their honeymoon, crosses paths with a wildly spontaneous former classmate who throws his well-ordered routine into disarray. Yet in spite of their different outlooks on life, he starts to fall for her. Romantic comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Jennifer Aniston, Debra Messing, Hank Azaria, Alec Baldwin and Philip Seymour Hoffman. Edited for language and sexual content.
8.00 Kittens Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring kittens doing bizarre and humorous things.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room.
10.00 Celebrity Botched Up Bodies. Leading surgeons repair household names damaged by cosmetic surgery.
11.05 The BAFTA Britannia Awards 2016. Coverage of the movie awards ceremony, with Jodie Foster, Ricky Gervais, Ang Lee, Samuel L. Jackson, Felicity Jones and Ewan McGregor among those receiving honours.
1.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10 A New Life in Oz.** British families emigrating to Australia. (R) **4.00 Now That's Funny!** Internet-sourced videos with an amusing family friendly hook. (R) **4.50 Divine Designs. (R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm.** The children make cards. (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)****

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 David Starkey's Music & Monarchy 8.00 Sword, Musket & Machine Gun: Britain's Armed History 9.00 Horizon: The Trouble with Space Junk 10.00 The Sky at Night 10.30 Film: Venus in Fur (2013) 12.00 Killer Whales: Beneath the Surface – Natural World 2.00 The Magic of Mushrooms 2.00 Lost Kingdoms of Central America 3.00 Boxing at the Movies: Kings of the Ring 4.00 Close
ITV2
11.30 The Voice UK 1.00 2Awesome: 2Awesome 1.05 2Awesome: Guidance 1.40 2Awesome: Side Effects 2.20 2Awesome: Third Wheel 2.40 2Awesome: LA Story 3.00 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) 4.00 FYI Daily 4.05 Film: Nanny McPhee (2005) 5.00 Minion Madness 5.10 Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) 6.10 FYI Daily 6.15 Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) 7.15 FYI: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) 8.15 FYI Daily 8.20 Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014) 10.00 Family Guy 10.55 American Dad! 12.25 The Cleveland Show 1.25 Release the Hounds 2.15 Teleshopping 5.45 ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
8.00 This Time Next Year 9.00 Tonight at the London Palladium 10.00 Birds of a Feather 10.30 Inspector Morse 12.50 A Touch of Frost 2.30 Wycliffe 3.30 May the Best House Win 5.15 You're Only Young Twice 5.40 ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
11.40 Pawn Stars 1.30 Film: Apache (1954) 2.35 FYI Daily 2.40 Film: Apache (1954) 3.20 Film: Red River (1948) 4.25 FYI Daily 4.30 Film: Red River (1948) 6.00 Film: 633 Squadron (1964) 7.05 FYI Daily 7.10 Film: 633 Squadron (1964) 8.00 Premiership Rugby Union 9.00 Film: The Krays (1990) 10.05 FYI Daily 10.10 Film: The Krays (1990) 11.30 Film: Don't Say a Word (2001) 12.35 FYI Daily 12.40 Film: Don't Say a Word (2001) 1.45 Hell on Wheels
E4
3.00 The Big Bang Theory 6.30 The Big Bang Theory: Hawking's 75th Birthday 9.00 Film: Bullet to the Head (2012) 10.50 Tattoo Fixers 11.55 Virtually Famous 12.45 Gogglebox 1.50 Rude Tube: Love Bytes 2.45 Rude Tube 3.15 New Girl 3.35 Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 The Great St Trinian's Train Robbery (1966) 1.00 The Spy Next Door (2010) 2.50 The Two Faces of January (2014) 4.45 Mission: Impossible (1996) 6.55 The Jane Austen Book Club (2007) 9.00 The Railway Man (2013)

FREE
Enrolment

Gymophobics
THE 30 MINUTE WORKOUT
THE UK'S PREMIER INCH & WEIGHT LOSS CENTRES

FREE
Vibro Plates

LADIES ONLY INCH & WEIGHT LOSS CENTRE

Whatever your figure, shaping up and slimming down has never been easier

Week on week we monitor your weight, inch loss and general fitness to ensure you achieve your goals!

After

Before

Slimmer of
The Year
Finalist

Alison from
Cannock lost
8st 11lbs and
112 inches...

Before

After

Slimmer of
The Year
Finalist

Dawn from
Cannock lost
4st 5lbs and
65 inches...

Before

After

Slimmer of
The Year
Finalist

Sue from
Cannock has
lost 3st 7lbs and
45 inches...

BOOK YOUR FREE GUEST VISIT

Tel: 01922 278700

www.gymophobics.co.uk

1 Rookery Lane, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 8NN

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Unwanted Guest, Channel 5, 3.15pm

With nowhere to go for winter break, Amy is invited to spend time with her friend Christine's family. What begins as a nice bonding experience soon turns into a nightmare as Amy begins to lash out at her welcoming hosts. Thriller, starring Kate Mansi and Valentina Novakovic. (2016)

TUESDAY

Dangerous Lessons, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A high school teacher breaks the cardinal rule of not getting romantically involved with one of her students. However, when she tells him it's over, the boy begins to demonstrate psychotic, obsessive behaviour, and starts to stalk both her and her family. Thriller, starring Louise Lombard and Alex Esola. (2016)

WEDNESDAY

The Other Man, BBC1, 11.45pm

After his wife's death, a man learns she was having an affair when he discovers provocative photos of her with another man. He resolves to track down her lover and exact his revenge, but when he confronts the man about his misdeeds, he instead strikes up an unlikely friendship, making him question whether he should continue with his vengeful scheme. Drama, starring Liam Neeson and Antonio Banderas. (2008)



The Other Man, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.45pm

THURSDAY

A Mother's Fear, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A single mother resolves to discover the cause of her son's mysterious illness. Her investigation leads her to a corporation involved in genetically modified food and two scientists who are on the verge of a groundbreaking new discovery. Drama, starring Zoe Lister-Jones, Danny Glover and Victor Garber. (2015)

FRIDAY

Sexy Beast, Channel 4, 12.10am

A retired safe-breaker enjoying the high life in Spain becomes the target of unwanted attention when his psychotic former gangland boss comes looking to enlist his help and expertise for a major bank robbery in London. Crime thriller, starring Ray Winstone, Ben Kingsley, Ian McShane and Amanda Redman. (2000)

New series is hoping to be a Class above

Sometimes it's hard to be a Doctor Who fan...

The past 12 months have been particularly difficult thanks to the fact that no full series of the much-loved drama had headed our way. Instead, we've had to make do with the Christmas special, which was a lot of fun, but it's just not the same as having several adventures spread over a couple of months to get your teeth into.

However, one little ray of sunshine was the appearance of Class, a spin-off available on BBC Three. Sadly, there are some of us who still can't get to the grips of watching programmes online, or who don't have the technology to watch it via our TVs, so we feel we've missed out.

Thankfully, the Beeb has deemed it worthy of a proper, terrestrial broadcast, so three cheers for them.

Of course, it isn't the first time a Whovian spin-off has featured in the schedules. Way back in 1981 we were treated to K-9 and Company, in which former companion Sarah

Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen) was meant to embark on adventures with the Time Lord's popular robot dog. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a lacklustre affair that didn't get past the pilot stage.

Sladen returned in The Sarah Jane Adventures 26 years later, and that was a success, running for five series until the actress's death in 2011.

And then there was Torchwood, a far more grown-up approach to sci-fi, which ran for four years; fans were devastated when it came to an end and long for it to return. It has, after a fashion, via Big Finish, a company that produces Doctor Who audio adventures. The company has also backed other spin-offs featuring characters from the series.

Class may one day be a project for them too, but for now, it's a visual feast written by young adult writer Patrick Ness, who said of the series before its first air date in October: "There are many, many secrets to come. Many. Like, a lot. But of course, the Doctor is in episode one! That's how these things are done."

"Truly, though, I can't wait for everyone to see the show; we've worked so hard and I'm so proud of it."

Peter Capaldi added: "The Doctor Who family is growing, and it's fantastic to be able to welcome the young new cast of Class in to the Whoniverse."

The main setting for the drama is Coal Hill Academy, which long-standing fans will be aware has been part of Doctor Who since its earliest days – it featured in the very first episode, An Unearthly Child, back in 1963, when it was known as Coal Hill School and was attended by the Doctor's granddaughter, Susan. It's appeared since too – it's the school where Clara Oswald was a teacher.

Now it's Miss Quill (played by Katherine Kelly) who takes centre stage, along with four students who are entrusted by the Doctor to keep all alien threats at bay.

Fun and lively, it's a must for Whovians of all ages.



Sophie Hopkins and Greg Austin star, Class, Monday, BBC1, 10.45pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

The Halcyon

ITV, 9pm

Lady Hamilton wants Freddie to use his leave from the RAF to support her with the hotel and it becomes clear she may have changed and that Garland is in her sights. The hotel manager insists he's not worried and that he just needs to show how indispensable he is, but Peggy and Feldman aren't so sure, while Charity meets Joe and reveals her plans for revenge, but he refuses to help her, and Emma and Betsy hit the town. Drama, starring Olivia Williams, Steven Mackintosh, Jamie Blackley and Mark Benton.

TUESDAY

Sugar Free Farm

ITV, 9pm

Seven celebrities submit to a diet free from sugar, refined carbs, processed fats and cheap meat. From the moment they take up residence in a farmworkers' cottage, they're put to work to earn all the healthy food they eat. TV presenter Alison Hammond cooks from scratch with natural ingredients, comedian Joe Pasquale discovers an aptitude for pig husbandry, and ex MP Ann Widdecombe overcomes an aversion to whole grains. However, while Peter Davison, Stavros

Flatley are also put through their paces, reality star Gemma Collins has trouble handling the farm work.

WEDNESDAY

Hospital

BBC2, 9pm

New series. A six-part series capturing the day-to-day realities that face the NHS in unprecedented times. With an ever-increasing demand on its various services, the programme shows the real-life dilemmas and tough decisions that hospital staff and patients alike have to endure. In the first episode, two patients await life-saving surgery at St Mary's Hospital in Paddington - both need to be in the intensive card ward, but the hospital is at full capacity and there is only one bed remaining.

Common Sense

BBC2, 10pm

New series. Topical, fast-paced comedy news series voiced by Ruth Jones, featuring a regular cast of real British people, including dinner ladies from Leeds, East End market traders, supermarket co-workers, launderette owners and butchers from Birmingham. Chosen for their

sharp wit and humorous take on life, the cast offer their honest and unfiltered thoughts on some of the biggest talking points of the week, from major breaking stories and bizarre headlines, to the worlds of sport and popular culture.

THURSDAY

Spy in the Wild

BBC1, 8pm

New series. Natural history documentary in which spy cameras camouflaged as various animals go 'undercover' in the animal world, getting up close and personal to film their behaviour. Spy Pup is immersed in wild dog life to explore their maternal love, and Spy Penguin records the turbulent action of the mating season, as a male Adelle penguin falls victim to a pebble thief that ruins his chances of love for the season. Spy Tortoise and Spy Bushbaby keep



Sugar Free Farm, Tuesday, ITV, 9pm

watch on chimpanzees, while in perhaps the most moving scenes, Spy Monkey becomes the focus of attention for a troop of concerned langurs who believe the motionless camera-creature has died.

FRIDAY

Big Dreams Small Spaces

BBC2, 7pm

Monty Don helps Tariq and Sairah, who want to turn their dumping ground of a backyard in Leyton into a sumptuous award-winning garden suitable for entertaining friends and family, and a trip to Chelsea Flower Show proves inspirational. Ant and Jake in Bath want to create a Japanese-style design for their L-shaped plot, but events take a dramatic turn when they discover an underlying problem with their soil that calls for an extreme solution.

Room 101

BBC1, 8.30pm

Frank Skinner presents the comedy panel show, returning for the sixth series of this reincarnation, which sees three – as opposed to just one – celebrities venting their spleen about people and objects that upset them, vying for supremacy. Lining up for battle in this edition are comedy actress Catherine Tate, X Factor contender-turned-television host Rylan Clark-Neal and actor Nigel Havers.

up to

25% off

selected products

✓ Old Buildings Removed

✓ Asbestos Disposal

✓ Base Laying Service

✓ Free Quotations

CONCRETE GARAGE ROOF REPLACEMENT SERVICE

Wooden Sheds

HUGE RANGE

FULL TONGUE & GROOVE

Prices from

Delivery Only

Delivered & Fitted

6ft x 4ft

£239

£274

7ft x 5ft

£269

£309

8ft x 6ft

£299

£344

Concrete Garages

FREE FITTING

Fitted prices from

Single Garage 16ft x 8ft

£1599

Double Garage 16ft x 16ft

£3099

Summer Houses

FREE FITTING

Fitted prices from

7ft x 5ft

£599

8ft x 6ft

£725

8ft x 8ft

£789

Without Verandah falls victim to a pebble thief that ruins his chances of love for the season. Spy Tortoise and Spy Bushbaby keep

Log Cabins & Garden Rooms

VIEW ONLINE

Fitting service available

Wall Log 44mm T&G

Double Glazed

Insulated Options

✓ Huge Range

✓ Made To Measure Service

✓ Lined & Insulated Options

✓ Quality At Competitive Prices

Show site (open 7 days): Tildasley Street, West Bromwich B70 9SJ (Next to Staples)

Visit our website: www.bettabuildings.co.uk

Call us now: 0121 553 4682

We make it **BETTA BUILDINGS**

Express & Star

FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:

• 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)

• 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice

• Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com

• 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights

• We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

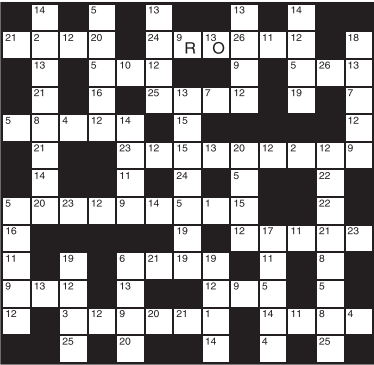
Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645 or email tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk

*All prices are subject to VAT

BRAIN GYM No.410

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
E	R	L	Y	B	S	H	F	I	N	Q	V	A
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	W	X	D	Z	C	M	K	T	J	O	G	U



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

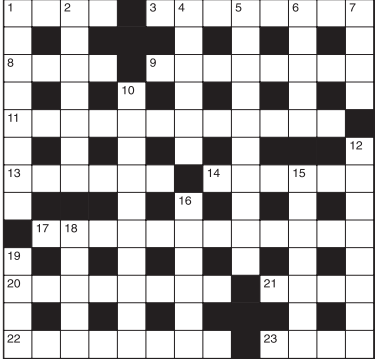
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1 & 7Dn. A verge on the road for the team having to travel (4,4)
- 3. Hire pots for prizes (8)
- 8. Green on a charge! (4)
- 9. Gave information showing what the divorcee said (8)
- 11. The results of a party game (12)
- 13. Attempt to have a meal inside by agreement (6)
- 14. Seasoned meat for Sarah and friend in France (6)
- 17. Another purchase of stock - piece of harness and clothing (12)
- 20. Geographical measurement that shows a certain tolerance (8)
- 21. See 6 Down
- 22. A person without doubt (8)
- 23. Puts in the right type for the series (4)

Down

- 1. Legal man to make a recommendation (8)
- 2. Organise a place for shooting practice, we hear (7)
- 4. Strange tailless feline creates a disturbance (6)
- 5. They provide the simple truth (5,5)
- 6 & 21Ac. Where you'll find the sailor answering a charge (2,3,4)
- 7. See 1 Across
- 10 & 16Dn. Becoming irritated when being inoculated (7,3,6)
- 12. It's not right in manufactured brands to find errors (8)
- 15. Mean to amend a single bloomer (7)
- 16. See 10 Down
- 18. Commend highly in the next Olympics (5)
- 19. One in a black suit produces a blunt instrument (4)



Quick Clues:

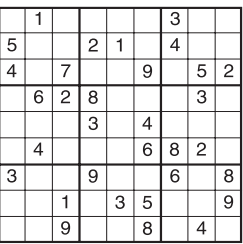
Across

- 1. Draw (4)
- 3. Banter (8)
- 8. Wealthy (4)
- 9. Bulge (8)
- 11. Loving (12)
- 13. Profession (6)
- 14. Share (6)
- 17. Cheekiness (12)
- 20. Remove (8)
- 21. Retired (4)
- 22. Rider (8)
- 23. Carry (4)

Down

- 1. Mode of speech (8)
- 2. Satan (7)
- 4. Scared (6)
- 5. Designs (10)
- 6. Grown-up (5)
- 7. A paradise (4)
- 10. Speed up (10)
- 12. Protector (8)
- 15. Base (7)
- 16. Layers (6)
- 18. Manufacturer (5)
- 19. Craving (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9	1	7	5	8	3	2	6	4
6	3	4	1	2	7	9	8	5
5	8	2	6	9	4	3	7	1
4	5	9	8	6	1	7	3	2
3	6	1	9	7	2	5	4	8
2	7	8	4	3	5	1	9	6
8	4	5	3	1	9	6	2	7
7	9	6	2	5	8	4	1	3
1	2	3	7	4	6	8	5	9

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Head waiters; 9 Peppers; 10 Reach; 11 Rolls; 12 Elector; 13 Pastry; 15 Dearth; 18 Inertia; 20 Outdo; 22 Titan; 23 Private; 24 Anachronism. Down: 2 Expert; 3 Dresser; 4 Answer; 5 Three; 6 Reactor; 7 Appropriate; 8 Church tower; 14 Sweeten; 16 Erosion; 17 Sapper; 19 Tonic; 21 Tears. QUICK - Across: 1 On probation; 9 Idiot; 10 Motor; 11 Piece; 12 Emotion; 13 Effete; 15 Grieve; 18 Seaport; 20 Clean; 22 Ratio; 23 Artless; 24 Incredulity. Down: 2 Noise; 3 Retreat; 4 Bicker; 5 Tempo; 6 Outside; 7 Displeasure; 8 Drunkenness; 14 Flatten; 16 Recital; 17 Strand; 19 Odour; 21 Erect.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Of which animal is the babirusa a wild variety?
- 2. Who replaced Jack Straw as Home Secretary in 2001?
- 3. Which museum is now on the site of 'Bedlam' Hospital?
- 4. Which film comic was born William Claude Dukinfield?
- 5. Which ocean has the largest tidal range?
- 6. Which flower is named after the French for lion's tooth?
- 7. What has the same tune as the US's America (My Country, 'Tis Of Thee)?
- 8. Who succeeded Joe Royle as manager of Manchester City??
- 9. Which record producer was famous for his Wall of Sound?
- 10. What are used in the Rorschach test?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Sikhism; 2 Harlem Globetrotters; 3 Joule; 4 John Denver; 5 Osborne House; 6 James II; 7 Jeremy Irons; 8 Buddy Holly; 9 New Jersey; 10 Zubin Mehta. Niner: FALTERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

5745268552 gives an Italian painter,
53674 gives an Italian city,
13482 gives an Italian province.



Star Reader Travel

Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Fly direct from Birmingham airport to Friedrichshafen

4* Summer in the AUSTRIAN MOUNTAINS in St Anton

Return transfers to your hotel

Two full day excursions

English speaking rep

4 star hotel with half board

Departing Sunday 9 July 2017

Price Includes...

YOUR CHOICE OF HOTEL:

4 star Hotel Arlberg
4 star Sport Hotel
4 star Anthony's Hotel

2 FULL DAY EXCURSIONS:

Lake Constance (Bodensee) & Lindau
Liechtenstein & Appenzell

PLUS: St Anton 'Summer Card'

Return Flights on our exclusive **AWARD-WINNING AIRLINE CHARTER** with (Max) 20kg luggage allowance

INCLUDES: £100 per person EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT

when you book before 31 January 2017
Omega Holidays reserve the right to remove this offer at any time.

Quote Code: PQY255

8 days, by AIR £949pp

View product online at
www.omega-holidays.com/PQY255

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782, ATOL Protected 6081.
Single supplements apply. Subject to availability.

Your Chronicle in association with **Omega**

ABTA

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

YOUR CHOICE...FOR A BETTER BATHROOM

We do the lot in 5 days

VAT FREE in Qualifying Cases

39 Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton WV11 1TW **01902 861908**

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford DY6 7SH **01384 287222**

SHOWROOMS OPEN 9am-5pm 6 Days a Week

"Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budget of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers."

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3850

90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray
15 SQM Wall Tiles
Tiled Floor
Replacement Shower
New Basin & WC

THIS WEEK'S DISABLED SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in and out of your bath? We will remove the bath and fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle and tile inside, supply a new replacement shower, a folding seat and grab rail

ALL FOR ONLY £2150

Extra discount for our retired & disabled customers

We offer a free no obligation home visit and on the spot price within 48 hrs of your call



Relax in the comfortable and spacious bar



Food delights in Hayloft restaurant



Lovely views – Bodnant Welsh Food Centre



Communal facilities in the accommodation

Best of Welsh food on table

FOR so many people, quality, locally-sourced food is high on the priority list when they are thinking about where to stay.

Cue Bodnant Welsh Food Centre and Cookery School in North Wales, helping the country to establish its growing reputation as a nation of passionate producers and fanatical foodies.

Situated just a stone's throw from the sea-side town of Conwy, the centre was established in 2012 to provide the showcase for the best Welsh food such as fresh meat from the local valleys and hills.

It is set in a cluster of stone farm buildings dating back to the 18th century, which have been lovingly restored to house a host of businesses, all of which champion the best products from the local area.

On site is a farm shop, selling products sourced from the surrounding Bodnant estate, from award-winning Welsh suppliers and the in-house bakery, butchers and dairy. This food is also used to supply the elegant on-site Hay-

By James Pugh

loft Restaurant, intimate River Room and Furnace Tea Room. My wife and I stayed in one of the five on-site bedrooms, which boast stunning views over the Conwy Estuary.

The comfortable accommodation has been finished with stylish furnishings, ironwork lights and Welsh handmade fabrics as well as the usual mod cons. It also benefits from an impressive communal kitchen and living room. Staying over is an excellent excuse to make use of both the Hayloft and River Room, where chefs make the best possible use of Bodnant's ingredients.

The menu is changed regularly to suit the seasons and boasts generous portions. Typical dishes in the Hayloft include a 'festival of Welsh lamb', 'soused Llandudno mackerel' and 'peaches and Bodnant ice cream' – all reasonably priced and served with wines from Bodnant's own cellar.

Alternatively, The River Room restaurant offers an intimate and informal fine dining experience with a unique seven-course tast-

ing menu, each course refined and carefully selected by Andrew Sheridan. The restaurant, which provides a fine dining experience for just 12 guests per evening, was the brainchild of Mr Sheridan. It was this we got the pleasure of sampling during our stay.

Each dish was immaculately presented and bursting with flavours, including the mackerel and wood pigeon which I had never tried before. The mix of pre-chosen white and red wines, optional with the tasting menu, accompanied the main dishes perfectly.

Ambition

Mr Sheridan, who has trained alongside Michelin-starred chef Michael Caines, said: "The River Room was the realisation of a personal ambition to make fine dining more accessible to people. I passionately believe that everyone should have the opportunity to experience top quality food."

"The idea behind The River Room is to combine fine dining with an informal atmosphere. There is absolutely no pretence here – guests don't need to worry about wearing a formal jacket or which cutlery to choose."

Just like the food, the service was first-class, with the knowledgeable waiter introducing each dish and wine.

Breakfast the following morning in the Hayloft restaurant was equally appetising. The venue also boasts a function room for weddings and other events and the Welsh National Bee-keeping Centre – as well as its impressive Cookery School, which again promotes local ingredients.

Courses tie in with what is in season, catering for just what you fancy all around the year, with classes varying from bread-making to tapas fusion, skilled patisserie and dinner party dishes. Bodnant's sessions come highly recommended for chefs of all levels – and would certainly make an ideal gift for a food enthusiast.

For those seeking a little more adventure, there is plenty of exploration to be done in the rugged local landscape of Snowdonia, a sanctuary for outdoors enthusiasts and adventure seekers. Situated in quiet estate surroundings, in the heart of Conwy Valley, the Bodnant Welsh Food Centre offers something for everyone.

StarReader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind



Return coach travel from Brownhills, Dudley, Walsall, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton

Your Chronicle

in association with

Omega
The Travel Association

ABTA

NOW INCLUDING

6

GREAT NEW WEST END SHOWS TO CHOOSE FROM



4 STAR

HOTEL WITH FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST



A

THEATRE

TICKET

TO A SHOW OF YOUR CHOOSING



RETURN

COACH TRAVEL



LONDON THEATRE

Choose a top West End show from our fabulous selection...

42nd Street, Aladdin, An American in Paris, Beautiful, Dreamgirls, Half a Sixpence, Jersey Boys, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia!, Matilda, Motown, The Phantom of the Opera, School of Rock, Stomp, The Girls, The Lion King, Wicked and more...!

Saturday Night London Theatre

Selected Saturday departures until July 2017

2 days, by coach from **£149.95pp**

Quote Code: UAF137

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with full English breakfast
- ✓ A ticket for a Saturday evening performance of a TOP West End Show from our fabulous selection
- ✓ Free time in London

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/UAF137

Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.

London Theatre Weekend with Evening Meal

Selected Saturday departures until August 2017

2 days, by coach from **£159.95pp**

Quote Code: TJE139

Price Includes...

- ✓ Overnight stay at a 4 star hotel within 20 miles of central London with 3-course evening meal and full English breakfast
- ✓ A show ticket for a Saturday matinee performance of a TOP West End Show from our fabulous selection
- ✓ Free time in London

View product online at www.omega-holidays.com/TJE139

Single room supplement £30pp. Subject to availability.



New shows coming into the

WEST END FOR 2017



HALF A SIXPENCE

FROM 5 NOV 2016 - 11 FEB 2017

With audiences on their feet every night, you won't want to miss this 'joyous production' (Evening Standard), so book your tickets today!



SCHOOL OF ROCK

FROM 19 NOV 2016 - 12 FEB 2017

THE NEW LONDON THEATRE



DREAM GIRLS

FROM 6 JAN - 11 MAR 2017

SAVOY THEATRE



THE GIRLS

FROM 3 FEBRUARY - 15 JULY 2017

THE GIRLS is the true story of the Yorkshire CALENDAR GIRLS, a group of ordinary ladies who achieved something extraordinary. This new musical comedy has brought together the writing talents of Gary Barlow and Tim Firth who grew up in the same village in the North of England and have been friends for 25 years.



42ND STREET

FROM 7 APRIL - 22 JULY 2017

THEATRE ROYAL DRURY LANE



AN AMERICAN IN PARIS

FROM 10 MARCH - 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

DOMINION THEATRE

For more information or to book, please call: **01902 902165**

OPENING TIMES: MON-FRI 8.30-19.00
SAT 8.30-16.00 SUN 10.00-16.00

Organised by Omega Holidays plc, ABTA V4782.



PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

31
The Chronicle Thursday, January 5, 2017

Modern semi situated in a popular location

This modern semi-detached home in Conway Crescent, Willenhall, lies in an popular location close to excellent transport links.

With double glazing and gas central heating, it has recently joined the property market and is up for sale through Paul Dubberley at £159,995.

Its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, three bedrooms, a family bathroom and garage. Ideal for a family, it also comes with a driveway to the front and a well-maintained garden to rear.

In more detail the porch has a door opening into an entrance hall. This has carpeted flooring, stairs to the first floor and doors to the lounge, dining room, kitchen and under-stairs cupboard.

The lounge has a walk-in bay window, carpeted flooring and a feature electric fire in a surround.

The dining room has laminate flooring and glazed doors opening to the conservatory. This in turn has tiled flooring and doors opening out to the rear garden.

With a range of wall and base units, the kitchen has roll top work surfaces, tiled splash-backs, an integrated electric oven, hob, extractor, stainless steel sink and mixer, a window to the rear and a door opening out to the side of the property.

Upstairs, the first floor landing has carpeted flooring, loft access and doors to the bedrooms and bathroom.

With a white suite, the bathroom has a modern suite comprising a WC, wash hand basin, a bath with an electric shower over, tiled walls, a cupboard housing the boiler and a window to the rear.

Outside, the rear garden has a decked pathway leading from the conservatory onto a slabbed patio leading to a lawned area beyond.

The garage has an up and over door, power and lighting and a door leading out to the rear garden.

WILLENHALL £159,995



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Paul Dubberley

TEL: 01902 633323

EMAIL: willemhall@pauldubberley.co.uk

KEY FEATURES

3-bedroomed family home

2 receptions

Conservatory

Well-presented

Garden, driveway & garage



They're sold

Turn to your local estate agent to sell your property and you will be **SOLD ON:**

- Professional accredited local agent service
- Free valuation
- Local area knowledge
- Adverts in local newspapers, online and office window display
- Registered house hunters
- Solid marketing advice to help you sell fast

If you are thinking of selling, look no further than the estate agents in these pages for the best local advice available.

Three-bedroom cottage is set in a secluded village location

GREAT WYRLEY

£365,000 >>>

In a secluded location, Lakeside Cottage in Newtown, Great Wyrley, is a three-bedroomed property in a village location.

Deceptively spacious, it is for sale through Webbs at £365,000 with no chain.

A beautifully presented and impressive family home, it is close to all local amenities and good schools.

In brief, this spacious and generously-proportioned family home has accommodation comprising an entrance porch, inner hallway, a guest WC, a lounge, a dining room, a conservatory, a re-fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a re-fitted shower room. There is also a private driveway.

Call Webbs on 01543 468846.



Semi-detached in sought after area

WILLENHALL

On the sought after Riverpoint Estate, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £175,000.

It has an entrance porch, an entrance hall, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, landing, three bedrooms (master en suite), a loft room, a shower room, garden and a garage.

The selling agents are expecting the sale of this property to attract a lot of interest, due to its position and attractive modern design, which is packed with appeal. Contact Paul Dubberley estate agents on 01902 633323 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk



Well-presented home is ideal for a family to live in

This well presented three bedroomed residence in Honeybourne Way, Willenhall, is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £160,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance porch, entrance hall, a lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, a conservatory, three bedrooms and a family bathroom, a large front driveway, rear garage

WILLENHALL

£160,000

and a private garden. In more detail, it is conveniently located on the popular Kingfisher development. The property is spacious throughout, benefitting from gas central heating and double glazing.

The lounge has a bay window to the front, carpeted flooring and a feature gas fire with a brick surround. The kitchen has an integrated electric cooker, gas hob and an extractor over.

A spokesman for the selling agent said: "This property would suit the needs of a growing family." Contact Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323 or visit www.pauldubberley.co.uk

SDL BIGWOOD

Midlands' Leading Auctioneers

sdlbigwood.co.uk

@SDLBigwood

ENTRIES INVITED FOR OUR NEXT AUCTION

Advantages of Selling By Auction

- Quick Sale
- Immediate Exchange of Contracts
- 28 Day Completion
- Certainty of Sale

Contact us for a **FREE** no obligation appraisal

Birmingham & The South
0121 233 5046

Black Country & The North
07830 375 823





A well-maintained two-bed town house

WILLENHALL
£100,000

Perfect for a first time buyer or investor, this well maintained two bedroom town house in Drancy Avenue, Willenhall, lies in a highly regarded location.

It is for sale through Paul Dubberley at offers over £100,000.

It is close to major transport links, shopping and recreational facilities and more importantly within the catchment area of local schools. This two bedroomed property's accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a large lounge/diner, a modern kitchen, downstairs WC, two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also benefits from double glazing, gas central heating and private rear gardens. The rear garden is low maintenance.

Contact Paul Dubberley on 01902 633323.



Three-bedroom family home is presented to a high standard

WALSALL
£295,000

<<<

This generous detached family home in an enviable corner plot in Norton Lane, Walsall, comes with a detached double garage and kennels.

Deceptively spacious and beautifully presented, it is for sale through Webbs Estate Agents at £295,000.

Its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, a through hallway, a guest WC, a generous lounge, a dining kitchen, a dining room, a guest WC, three double bedrooms, an en-suite and a family bathroom.

Externally there are generous gardens to three sides, two driveways and a double detached garage.

This home is pleasantly decorated throughout in neutral, modern shades and features wooden-effect, carpeted and tiled floors.

Contact Webbs on 01543 468846.




Webbs
Estate Agents

Call today on:
01922 66 33 99

or visit our website
www.webbsestateagents.co.uk

WALSALL
GILLITY CLOSE



- Dorma Detached Bungalow
- Entrance Hallway
- large Family Lounge
- Seven Bedrooms
- Bathroom and Shower Room
- Sitting Room

\$550,000

BLOXWICH
YIELDFIELDS HALL FARM



- Semi Rural Location
- Det. Dormer Bungalow
- Reception Hallway
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Utility
- Guests WC
- 4 Bedrooms

\$360,000

BLOXWICH
SANSTONE ROAD



- Detached Bungalow,
- Corner Plot
- Entrance Porch,
- Through Hallway.
- Generous Lounge,
- Dining/Sitting Room,
- Conservatory,
- Refitted Kitchen.

\$269,950

WALSALL
JUBILEE CLOSE



- Semi Detached House
- Through hallway,
- Lounge,
- Dining Room.
- Kitchen,
- Lean to,
- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom

\$119,950

WE WILL SELL YOUR HOME FOR

£499

PAYABLE UPON COMPLETION. NO SALE NO FEE

FREE VALUATION
FREE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS
FREE RIGHTMOVE LISTING
PLUS MUCH MORE

Call Walsall office on: **01922 66 33 99**

www.webbsestateagents.co.uk


WALSALL
EAGLEWORKS



- Ground Floor
- Hallway
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Parking

\$49,950 40% Shared

WILLENHALL
ROUNDLEA CLOSE



- Detached House
- Through Hallway,
- Lounge,
- Dining Room.
- Second Lounge,
- Breakfast Kitchen,
- Guest WC,
- Four Bedrooms.

\$290,000

WEST BROMWICH
HEATH LANE



- Through hallway,
- Guest WC,
- Kitchen Diner,
- Lounge.
- Three Bedrooms,
- Bathroom, En-Suite
- Landscaped Gardens,
- Driveway

\$189,950

WILLENHALL
WOOD LANE CLOSE



- dormer bungalow,
- Entrance Hallway,
- Refitted Kitchen diner
- Lounge with
- inglenook fireplace
- Orangery Room.
- Three Bedroom
- Two Bathrooms

\$315,000

OnTheMarket™

rightmove

ARLA

4-23 JANUARY THE ŠKODA BIG EVENT



ŠKODA



0% APR
WITH A
SOLUTIONS PERSONAL
CONTRACT PLAN*

FROM
£1000
TOWARDS
YOUR FINANCE
DEPOSIT

PLUS
£500
OF FREE FUEL
WITH EVERY
NEW CAR*

skoda.co.uk/BigEvent

Autosales Ltd Unit 1 Attwood Road Zone 1, Burntwood Business Park, Burntwood, West Midlands WS7 3GJ ☎ **01543 450000** 🌐 **www.autosalesgroup.co.uk**

*At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) own the vehicle: pay the optional final payment; ii) return the vehicle: subject to fair wear and tear, charges may apply; or iii) replace: part-exchange the vehicle.

Finance available with a Solutions Personal Contract Plan. Terms and conditions apply. 18s and over. Subject to availability. Finance subject to status. Offer available for vehicles ordered by 23 January 2017 from participating retailers. Offer not available in conjunction with any other offer and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Accurate at time of publication. Freeport ŠKODA Financial Services. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to assist with your purchase, who may pay us for introducing you to them. *No cash alternative. Private retail customers only. Available in conjunction with existing finance offers. £500 free fuel must be claimed within 3 months of vehicle handover. Big Event Free fuel offer terms and conditions apply, see skodafreefuel.co.uk for full details. Offer available for new cars ordered between 4 and 23 January 2017 inclusive from participating retailers. Offers exclude ŠKODA Kodiaq. Models shown: ŠKODA Yeti Outdoor SE L 1.2 TSI 110PS, ŠKODA Octavia Hatch vRS 2.0 TSI 220PS and ŠKODA Citigo 5dr Monte Carlo 1.0 MPI 60PS 5spd Manual. Models shown may vary from UK specification.

Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 31.4 (9.0) to 72.4 (3.9); Extra Urban 45.6 (6.2) to 88.3 (3.2); Combined 39.2 (7.2) to 80.7 (3.5). CO₂ emissions for the ŠKODA range in mpg are 164 to 90 g/km. The advertised range is correct as of 10 October 2016 and is subject to change. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

AUTOSALES

THE UK'S LONGEST ESTABLISHED ŠKODA DEALER

ŠKODA APPROVED USED CARS JANUARY SALE EVERYTHING REDUCED

- ▶ Two years' Free Full Roadside Assistance ▶ Balance of Manufacturer's Warranty
- ▶ Some cars are less than 6 months old with under 2,000 miles
- ▶ All cars undergo a multi-point inspection

16 PLATE CITIGO
SE-L Greentech 1.0
5 Door Hatchback
ONLY 2,100 miles
£8995
SAVING £2610 ON NEW

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

DUGLWUX ŠKODA Citigo 1.0 MPI (75PS) SE L Greentech
5 Door Hatchback Brilliant Silver Metallic 2,100 miles... £8995

DV6VHB ŠKODA Citigo 1.0 MPI (60PS) Colour Edition
3 Door Hatchback Brilliant White 100 miles... £7995

DT16JUKM ŠKODA Citigo 1.0 MPI (60PS) SE
3 Door Hatchback Spring Green Metallic Metallic 3,035 miles... £7995

DP16ZHN ŠKODA Citigo 1.0 MPI (60PS) Colour Edition
3 Door Hatchback White 4,000 miles... £7995

DT16KUC ŠKODA Citigo 1.0 MPI (60PS) SE
5 Door Hatchback Race Blue Metallic 4,500 miles... £7995

DS16UGL ŠKODA Citigo 1.0 MPI (60PS) SE
3 Door Hatchback Tungsten Silver Metallic Metallic 1,520 miles... £7995

DL65OWJ ŠKODA Fabia 1.4 TDI 90bhp Monte Carlo
5 Door Hatchback Black Magic Pearl 4,250 miles... £12995

DL16WUX ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI Monte Carlo 90BHP
5 Door Hatchback Race Blue Metallic 4,500 miles... £12995

DT16VUC ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI Monte Carlo 90BHP
5 Door Hatchback Race Blue Metallic 3,500 miles... £12995

65 PLATE FABIA
Monte Carlo 1.4 TDI
5 Door Hatchback
ONLY 4,250 miles
£12995
SAVING £5390 ON NEW

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

DP16ZHR ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI (90 BHP) Monte Carlo
5 Door Estate Corrida Red 5,900 miles... £12495

DX16VYA ŠKODA Fabia 1.4 TDI (105ps) SE L
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Cappuccino Metallic 3,100 miles... £7995

DN16WTV ŠKODA Fabia 1.0 MPI Monte Carlo 75BHP
5 Door Hatchback Corrida Red 4,500 miles... £7995

DT16OVF ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI (90ps) SE
5 Door Hatchback Corrida Red 10,685 miles... £10995

DT15KTO ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI Monte Carlo 90BHP
5 Door Hatchback Corrida Red 10,685 miles... £10995

DS16BWK ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI (90ps) Colour Edition
5 Door Hatchback Rallye Green Metallic Two-Tone 6,000 miles... £10995

DN16SSU ŠKODA Fabia 1.0 MPI (75ps) Colour Edition
5 Door Hatchback Candy White Pearl 4,600 miles... £10995

DV65FDD ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI (100ps) SE
5 Door Hatchback Race Blue Metallic 1,300 miles... £9995

DU660FG ŠKODA Fabia 1.0 MPI (75ps) SE
5 Door Hatchback Candy White 4,600 miles... £9995

DN65XOY ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI Monte Carlo 90BHP
5 Door Hatchback Black Magic Metallic 5,275 miles... £9995

DV65FOA ŠKODA Fabia 1.2 TSI Monte Carlo 90BHP
5 Door Hatchback Black Magic Metallic 5,120 miles... £9995

DP16UED ŠKODA Fabia 1.0 MPI (75ps) SE L
5 Door Hatchback Race Blue Metallic 9,500 miles... £9995

DU65VZE ŠKODA Fabia 1.0 MPI (60ps) S
5 Door Hatchback Corrida Red 4,000 miles... £7995

16 PLATE SPACEBACK
SE Sport 1.6 TDI
5 Door Hatchback
ONLY 5,800 miles
£13995
SAVING £5155 ON NEW

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

DP16EZO ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 1.6 TDI (115PS) SE Sport
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Corrida Red 5,800 miles... £13995

DT16UKF ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 1.6 TDI (115PS) SE Sport
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Corrida Red 4,500 miles... £13995

DU66OEJ ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 1.6 TDI CR (90ps) SE Sport
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Grey Metallic 3,200 miles... £13995

DV16XPK ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 1.2 TSI (110PS) SE Sport
5 Door Hatchback Race Blue Metallic 4,500 miles... £12995

DP16ZHT ŠKODA Rapid Spaceback 1.2 TSI (86ps) SE Tech
5 Door Hatchback Rallye Green Metallic 3,600 miles... £10995

16 PLATE OCTAVIA
vRS 2.0 TDI 180PS DSG
5 Door Hatchback
ONLY 4,900 miles
£20995
SAVING £5950 ON NEW

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

DV16XEX ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI CR vRS (184bhp) DSG Automatic
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Race Blue Metallic 4,900 miles... £20995

DP16ZH2 ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI CR Laurin & Klement (150bhp) DSG Automatic
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Candy White 3,500 miles... £20995

DL16JUJ ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI CR Laurin & Klement (150bhp) DSG Automatic
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Candy White 5,500 miles... £20995

DU66OEC ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI CR vRS (184bhp) DSG Automatic
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Candy White 4,500 miles... £20995

DP16CPE ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI CR vRS (184bhp) DSG Automatic
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Candy White 9,250 miles... £20995

DV16XEX ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI CR vRS (184bhp)
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Race Blue Metallic 4,985 miles... £18995

DU66OED ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI SE L (150PS)
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Brilliant Silver Metallic 4,600 miles... £17995

DL16NPK ŠKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI SE L (110PS)
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Corrida Red 5,500 miles... £16995

16 PLATE OCTAVIA
SE 1.6 TDI 110PS
5 Door Estate
ONLY 5,300 miles
£16995
SAVING £5135 ON NEW

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

DP14HZA ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI CR vRS (184bhp)
5 Door Diesel Hatchback White 45,200 miles... £14495

DV14WYB ŠKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI CR Elegance DSG Automatic
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Beige Metallic 39,100 miles... £11995

FX17LDD ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI CR vRS
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Candy White 27,300 miles... £11995

DW16ZKZ ŠKODA Octavia 2.0 TDI SE L (150PS)
5 Door Diesel Estate Race Blue Metallic 5,000 miles... £19995

DX16VYK ŠKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI SE (110PS)
5 Door Diesel Estate Quartz Grey Metallic 5,300 miles... £16995

DS16UGE ŠKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI SE (110PS)
5 Door Diesel Estate Cappuccino Beige Metallic 6,500 miles... £16995

DN16WTR ŠKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI SE (110PS)
5 Door Diesel Estate Quartz Grey Metallic 7,200 miles... £16995

DL16NPA ŠKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI SE (110PS)
5 Door Diesel Estate Black Magic Metallic 4,000 miles... £16995

DT16UKJ ŠKODA Octavia 1.6 TDI S (110PS)
5 Door Diesel Estate Corrida Red 3,800 miles... £14995

63 PLATE ROOMSTER
SE 1.2 TSI DSG Auto
5 Door Hatchback
ONLY 6,900 miles
£8995
SAVING £2500 ON NEW

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

SL63BEE ŠKODA Roomster 1.2 TSI (105bhp) SE DSG Automatic
5 Door Hatchback Pacific Blue 8,850 miles... £8995

WG63PMU ŠKODA Roomster 1.2 TSI (105bhp) SE DSG Automatic
5 Door Hatchback Brilliant Silver Metallic 6,500 miles... £8995

DE63THN ŠKODA Roomster 1.2 TSI (105bhp) SE DSG Automatic
5 Door Hatchback Mocca Brown Metallic 17,360 miles... £8495

YX63XUW ŠKODA Roomster 1.2 TSI SE DSG Automatic
5 Door Hatchback Rosso Brunello Metallic 30,400 miles... £7995

DN63UUP ŠKODA Roomster 1.2 TSI (85bhp) SE
5 Door Hatchback Silver Metallic 42,800 miles... £6995

16 PLATE YETI OUTDOOR
SE 1.2 TDI DSG Auto
5 Door Hatchback
ONLY 3,000 miles
£20995
SAVING £5900 ON NEW

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

SK14XAV ŠKODA Yeti 1.2 TSI Elegance
5 Door Station Wagon Beige Metallic 5,590 miles... £13995

DN16AZK ŠKODA Yeti 1.2 TSI SE DSG Automatic
5 Door Station Wagon Jungle Green Metallic 2,590 miles... £13995

DP16EYI ŠKODA Yeti 2.0 TDI CR SE 5 Door Diesel Station Wagon
Tangerine Orange Metallic 21,800 miles... £10995

DELIVERY MILEAGE ŠKODA FANTASTIC SAVINGS

DP16HKN ŠKODA Yeti 1.2 TSI SE DSG Automatic
5 Door Station Wagon Corrida Red 30,600 miles... £10995

DL16AHO ŠKODA Yeti 2.0 TDI CR SE
5 Door Diesel Station Wagon Corrida Red 51,650 miles... £7995

DP16NJE ŠKODA Yeti Outdoor 2.0 TDI SCR (150PS) 4X4 SE L DSG Auto
5 Door Diesel Station Wagon Beige Metallic 3,000 miles... £20995

DS16UGG ŠKODA Yeti Outdoor 2.0 TDI SCR (110PS) SE L 5 Door Diesel
Station Wagon Business Grey Metallic 1850 miles... £17495

BJ14KMZ ŠKODA Yeti Outdoor 1.6 TDI CR Elegance DPF GreenLine II
5 Door Diesel Station Wagon Jungle Green Metallic 35,300 miles... £12995

16 PLATE SUPERB
Lauren & Klement
2.0 TDI 180PS 4X4
DSG Automatic
5 Door Hatchback
ONLY 3,890 miles
£28995
SAVING £6230 ON NEW

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

DW16CCK ŠKODA Superb 2.0 TDI SCR (190PS) 4X4 L&K Automatic
5 Door Diesel Hatchback Candy White 3,890 miles... £28995

DU16KUP ŠKODA Superb 2.0 TDI SCR (150PS) SE L Executive
5 Door Diesel Estate Petrol Blue Metallic 3,450 miles... £18995

DT16UKP ŠKODA Superb 2.0 TDI (150ps) SE L Executive
5 Door Diesel Estate Jungle Green Metallic 4,300 miles... £22995

16 PLATE SUPERB
SE 2.0 + 1.6 CRD DIESEL
RED OR WHITE, DELIVERY MILEAGE ONLY
ONLY £17,995

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

16 PLATE SUPERB
SE BUSINESS
1.6 CRD DIESEL
CAPPUCCINO LEATHER, DELIVERY MILEAGE
ONLY £19,995

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

THREE ONLY
66 PLATE CITIGO
COLOUR EDITION
RED, DELIVERY MILEAGE ONLY
ONLY £7995

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

ONE ONLY
66 PLATE OCTAVIA
SE BUSINESS
1.6 CRD DIESEL
SILVER, DELIVERY MILEAGE ONLY
ONLY £17,995

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

TWO ONLY
66 PLATE SUPERB
SE 2.0 + 1.6 CRD DIESEL
RED OR WHITE, DELIVERY MILEAGE ONLY
ONLY £17,995

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

ONE ONLY
66 PLATE SUPERB
SE BUSINESS
1.6 CRD DIESEL
CAPPUCCINO LEATHER, DELIVERY MILEAGE
ONLY £19,995

WHAT CAR? CAR OF THE YEAR 2016

Autosales NEAR CANNOCK
Attwood Road, Burntwood, WS7 3GJ
☎ **01543 450000** | **08433 160483**
🌐 **www.autosalesgroup.co.uk**

follow us on
twitter
@autosalesgroup

find us on
facebook



Local Specialists

Accountancy

GORDON & Co

Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors

Specialising in self-employed, landlord, limited company and Construction Industry Scheme (CIS) clients. Professional, friendly and competitively priced accountancy and taxation services offered to suit your business needs:

- Self-Employed Accounts and Self-Assessment Tax Returns
- VAT Advice and Compliance
- Limited Company Financial Statements

- CIS Accounts, Monthly Returns and Self-Assessment Tax Returns
- Bookkeeping and Payroll
- Corporation Tax Advice and Compliance

Please call or e-mail to discuss your requirements and arrange a free consultation.



101 Mellish Road, Walsall, West Midlands, WS4 2DE

Telephone: 01922 613419

E-mail: enquiries@gordon-and-co.com

Website: www.gordon-and-co.com

Carpentry

JAY'S CARPENTRY & HOME IMPROVEMENTS

NEED EXTRA SPACE?...
GARAGE CONVERSIONS

- ALSO LOFT LADDER SUPPLIED & INSTALLED
- Fitted Wardrobes
- Floors • Tiling
- Doors • Decking
- FREE QUOTES

Call Jason: 01922 611272 / 07951 922879
www.jayscarpentry.co.uk

Electricians

R.G. Electrical Ltd Est 1995

ALDRIDGE

DOMESTIC - COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL

Homes - Shops - Offices

- Rewires and Upgrades • Emergency Breakdown
- PAT Testing • Central Heating Wiring • Storage Heaters
- Fire Alarms • Intruder Alarms • CCTV
- Building Society Surveys NICEIC Inspections

All areas covered 0800 298 2904

robtelectrical@blueyonder.co.uk

37 Woodside Way, Walsall WS9 0HY



Fencing

B.J. FENCING SUPPLIES

MEMBERS OF GUILD OF MASTERCRAFTSMEN

A FAMILY BUSINESS BUILT ON QUALITY AND INTEGRITY

PANEL	6'x6'	6'x5'	6'x4'	6'x3'	6'x2'
Featheredge	£25	£23	£21	£18.50	£15
Overlap 10 Bar	£17.50	£16	£14.50	£13	£11.50
Overlap 8 Bar	£16.50	£15	£13.50	£12	£10.50
Trellis	£16	£14	£12	£10	£9

FEATHEREDGE PANELS ALSO AVAILABLE IN TANAISED TIMBER ADD 20%

★ OUR GUARANTEED PRICING COMMITMENT ★
"IF YOU FIND ANY PANEL OF EQUIVALENT QUALITY AT A LOWER PRICE - WE WILL BEAT THAT PRICE BY 5%"

★ FREE QUOTATIONS FOR SUPPLY AND ERECT ★
CONCRETE POSTS, GRAVEL BOARDS, GATES, TIMBER POSTS ETC
★ TRADE & QUANTITY ENQUIRIES WELCOME - DISCOUNT RATES ★
WE NOW STOCK TRADE FENCE AND SHED TREATMENT AND CREOCOTE FOR EXTENDED LIFE TO TIMBER PRODUCTS - VARIOUS COLOURS.
TEL: 07886 369958, 07828 693442 OR 01543 674688
UNIT 7E ZONE 4, BURNWOOD BUSINESS PARK WS7 3XD
(WE ARE LOCATED DIRECTLY OPPOSITE MORRISONS CAR PARK)

Gardening

Chase Tree Care

A locally based, family run company established in 2007. Since the owner is a fully qualified Tree Surgeon with 21 years experience in all aspects of professional Tree Surgery.

Fully insured, professional, competitive and friendly. For a free no-obligation competitive quote from an expert call:

01543 877887 / 07796 255333 www.chasetreecare.co.uk

City Guilds NPTC

As recommended on thebestofcannock

Woodman Tree Services

Domestic & Commercial Council Approve Contracts

Over 30 yrs Experience

Fully insured

Qualified, all work to BS 3998 standards

- Felling • Re-shaping • Pruning
- Reduction • Hedge Trimming
- Stump Removal • Landlord Contracts

24 hour Emergency Call Out

Logs and wood chip for sale

R.G. Wood ARB

Home: 01543 258108

Mobile: 07947 352960

Plastering

C.A. Plastering

For competitive quotes on all your refurbishment needs on plastering, boarding, overboarding, partitions, re-skimming and artex covering.

No job too small 07538 718264

Roofing

WALSALL ROOFING SPECIALISTS

AS RECOMMENDED ON

thebestofwalsall

- Slate and Tile Repairs
- Flat Roofs, EPDM
- Rubber Roofing
- uPVC Soffits and Fascias
- Chimney Reducing
- Guttering Repairs
- All Pointing Work
- Insurance Work
- 20 Year Guarantee
- Dry Ridge Systems
- 25 Years Experience
- Re-Roofs
- All genuine quotes beaten
- Special rates for senior citizens

FREE ESTIMATES

CALL MARK:

01922 694548 / 07790 214856

www.walsallroofingspecialists.co.uk

Brookes & Son ROOFING SERVICES

- ★ Discounts for OAP's
- ★ Insurance Work ★ Lead Work
- ★ Ridge Tiles Replaced
- ★ Flat Roofs ★ Pointing
- ★ Rubber Roofing (E.P.D.M.)
- ★ Chimney Repairs ★ Fascias & Gutters
- 25 years in the business
- FAMILY RUN - FREE QUOTES

Call: 01922 711150
07722 533247

ALL AREAS COVERED

A1 Little Job Man

(Part of the Imperial Residential Group)

Over 35 years experience

- Fast Roof Repairs • Felt Work & Guttering
- New Roofs Chimneys & Valleys
- uPVC Fascias & Guttering FREE Quotes
- All Building Work Undertaken
- All Work Guaranteed • All Areas Covered

01922 440004

Rapid Roofing

Flat Roof EPBM Rubber Roofing

- Roof Repairs
- Chimney Repairs
- uPVC Fascias/Soffits
- Slate Tile Repairs
- Felting • Guttering
- All pointing work

Free call out and estimates Walsall Based

01922 693047 07958 274019

Local Specialists

Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

ACCOUNTANCY AND TAXATION

Self Assessment and all accountancy services for the self employed, rental incomes, partnerships and limited companies.

A prompt and reliable service at a sensible cost

For a free appointment please call:

Robert Ollerenshaw on: Shenstone

01543 481329

Email: ollerenshaw@btinternet.com www.ollerenshaw.co.uk

Evening appointments not a problem

CW Joinery

DOOR SUPPLIERS AND FITTERS

PVC NOW AVAILABLE

- External doors supplied and fitted from £210
- Fit only, Paint or Stain available
- Fire doors fitted
- Pine, oak, hardwood doors available

Freephone 0800 019 3376

01922 709543 07810 122133

6 Internal, pre painted doors fully fitted for £375 complete with Handles

Builders

PRM Building & Plumbing

All general building and roofing work undertaken
Kitchens, Bathrooms and Extensions

No job too small

01922 693047 or 07958 274019

Double Glazing

WINDOW DOCTOR

GLAZING REPAIRS & LOCKSMITHS.

SERVICE & REPAIR FOR ALL DOORS & WINDOWS.

MISTY & BROKEN GLASS REPLACED.

WE REPAIR HANDLES, HINGES, SEALS, PATIO'S, WINDOW & DOOR LOCKS.

CONSERVATORY & GUTTERING LEAKS REPAIRED.

10 YR GUARANTEE

01543 504900 24 HRS

07748 108035

12 WELLINGTON DRIVE, CANNOCK WS11 1PU

Est 30 years

Driveways

WESTCOT CONTRACTORS LTD

38 Years Experience

TARMACADAM CONCRETE BLOCK PAVING

LEADING DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL CONTRACTORS COVERING

LICHFIELD AND STAFFORDSHIRE

- Domestic Drives • Patios • Tennis Courts construction
- Commercial car parks and roads • Vehicle access crossing highway approved

Free quotations - All work guaranteed

Call for enquiries 07985 233112

Office 01543 251416

email: westcot.contractors.ltd@gmail.com

Electricians

MB electric

All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken

Home rewiring from £800

For a high quality local service call:

01922 509984

07939 503905

mbelectric.co.uk

Loft Ladders

LOFT SERVICES

UPVC or Wooden Drop Down Loft Hatch with Easyway Aluminium Ladder

£185 fitted

New or enlarged Loft access

- LOFT FLOORING
- LOFT INSULATION

Call Carl on

0121 556 1761

07502 103997

See our website

www.westmidlandsservices.co.uk

15 years' experience

Plumbing & Heating

Pauls Home Services LTD

Condensing Boilers Radiators • Upgrades

Gas Work • Full Heating Breakdowns

Bathrooms • Cloakrooms

• Kitchens • Plumbing

• Tiling • Showers

• Electrics • Plastering

• Decorating • Lighting

FREE QUOTATIONS

ALL WORK GUARANTEED

07790 873567

01922 417062

NO CALL OUT CHARGE

Digital Rapid Aerials

- Aerials, Plasma Brackets & CCTV
- Cameras supplied & fitted
- Repairs - Tuning - Multirooms

OAP DISCOUNTS
FREE QUOTATIONS

digital sky

A LOCAL BUSINESS YOU CAN TRUST

01922 693047

07960 173589

www.digitalrapidaerials.co.uk

£10 off with this advert

To advertise your business and reach more than 72,000 potential customers...

- 1 Call us on... 01543 465341
- 2 E-mail us at... sarah.winfield@expressandstar.co.uk
- 3 Post to... Sarah Jones, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Square, Cannock, WS11 1ES

Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

funeral directors

Turn To Us For Help and Support

In your time of need we'll take care of all the funeral arrangements.

- Est. 1907
- 24 hour service

G. Gibbs Funeral Directors

44 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1PZ
0121 553 0442

 **Dignity**
Part of Dignity plc. A British Company

1

Family

education & tuition

1-2-1 Maths & Sciences Tuition
by qualified local teachers.
Primary to A-Level.
From £10.
01902 311950 / 07742 064 269

elderly & disabled

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2

Leisure Time

bikes

JACKSON-HATELEY CYCLES

www.jacksonhateleycycles.co.uk

GIGANTIC CYCLE CLEARANCE

Massive Christmas giveaway. Book your Cycle for Christmas at sale price. All cycles built and guaranteed with a 24 hour repair service. All spares and accessories at discount price

HATELEY'S
Simply the best
Ring Dave on
01902 782344
458 Stafford Road, Oxley,
Wolverhampton

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome

Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

CARAVANS & CHALETS For sale with sea views, Clarch Bay near Aberystwyth from £4995 includes 2017 site fees. Call Phil on: 01970 820579, sales@clarchbay.com

music shop

SEMI ACOUSTIC guitar L and G, original cost £550. Any offers acceptable. 0121 557 6211.

sports & leisure

HILL BILLY electric golf trolley, battery and charger, full set clubs and bag. £95. 07970 872717.

Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
For items up to £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

holidays

caravan holidays

DOLPHIN CARAVAN PARK, Bream Somerset. Call 01278 751258
www.dolphincaravanpark.co.uk

caravan parks

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for sale on 5* Park, DG, CH, bar & restaurant. Child & pet friendly. 20 acres walking woodland £24,995 inc 2017 site fees Call 01568 708326.

mind, body & soul

clairvoyance

CLAIRVOYANT JOHN STARKEY
Appointments, Home visits & Telephone readings 01902 334 224

PSYCHIC TAROT READINGS Live 1 to 1. 0906 757 0900 75p per min, calls recorded. Credit/Debit card 0141 427 7003 (£25 - 30 mins).

massage

FULL BODY MASSAGE 30 mins £21, 40 mins £26, 1 hour £36. Shower facilities. 01902 782960.

3 Home & Services

antiques

Louis Taylor

House Clearances & Collections arranged at short notice for our monthly auctions
01782 638100

in your garden

6x5 Lap Panels
£16 each (inc vat)
WS3 2BQ
Bloxwich Fencing Ltd
Freephone 0500 506041
or 01922 712184

AT C B SHEDS & FENCING We supply/fit. Free quotes. Supply sleepers & decking 01922 720270.
AT SHEDRITE 5% off all buildings in January. Ex display available. Wilenhall Rd WV1 2HA 01902 450137
SLABS 450mm x 450mm RIVON FACED, only £1.76 inc. VAT.
Ranton Building Supplies: 01543 276006.

items wanted

ALL GOLD 9CT £300 PER OUNCE CASH PAID TODAY
No amount is too small
A GENUINE LADY BUYER
All Jewellery • Ornaments • Worcester Moorcroft • Lladro • Old coins
• WATCHES • COSTUME JEWELLERY
• Diamonds and Gold Coins • Clocks • Paintings
• ALL SILVER • All Oriental Items
Pre-47 silver coins All war medals etc
ANYTHING OLD & INTERESTING
01922 495066 or 07971 783206

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

WANTED FOR CASH three piece suites, up to £100 paid Call 01785 815925/07947 627142.

items for sale

ASH RECLAMATION new and used building materials, upvc doors and windows 01543 453222.

pc's, laptops & accessories

CLIENT COMPUTERS

Certified technician & Microsoft partner.
Repair & maintain laptops and PCs. In West Midlands.
Virus removal, broken screens, wifi.
Windows problems etc.
Home visits or bring to me.
Long established.
Laptops available.
0121 556 9481

t.v. / home entertainment

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials. Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc. CCTV cameras supplied & fitted. Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days. Digital aerials. Sky installation. Wall mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

service

A CARPETS & VINYLs supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes Call 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

CARPETS AND VINYLs Fitted and supplied 30 yrs exp. Free measuring/sample service 07376 195140.

cleaning

Sparkle Clean
Cleaning, Painting & Handyman Services
A standard of Excellence
Office or Household cleaning
Discount rates for regular customers
FREE Enquiries & quotes call
07818 238893 CMA checked

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL

01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS

SATELLITE & CCTV AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 859191
01902 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA
Credit Trade

alarms/security

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Brought to you by Express & Star

bathrooms

JR Bathrooms & Wetrooms

Over 20 years experience in bathroom & kitchen installations. TILING/PLASTERING/FREE QUOTES

07392 379741 or 01543 529648

P.FENLON BUILDERS All aspects of building. Block paving, plastering, brickwork etc. 01902 445315 / 07730 286187.

building services

RECLAIMED BRICKS. Tiles, Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York Stone. Cawarden 01889 574066. sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

carpentry & joinery

B & S JOINERY Six internal pre-primed doors fully fitted from £350. 07858 550255.

CARPENTRY AND JOINERY Kitchens, fitted wardrobes, doors, flooring, staircases and refurb. 07905 234137 or 0121 4639753.

carpet fitters

A CARPETS & VINYLs supplied or just fitted, quality samples brought to your home, no job too small, free quotes Call 01543 820598 / 07941 619694.

CARPETS AND VINYLs Fitted and supplied 30 yrs exp. Free measuring/sample service 07376 195140.

carpet services

Sparkle Clean
Cleaning, Painting & Handyman Services
A standard of Excellence
Office or Household cleaning
Discount rates for regular customers
FREE Enquiries & quotes call
07818 238893 CMA checked

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL

01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS

SATELLITE & CCTV AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 859191
01902 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA
Credit Trade

alarms/security

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Brought to you by Express & Star

PORTWAY FENCING

SPECIAL OFFER
10 days of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards
HEAVY DUTY PANELS SUPPLIED AND FITTED
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12 noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

electrical services

ALL ELECTRICAL work from a switch to a rewire. Insured, free quote 01902 575570 / 07958 627434.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07583 320318.

MB ELECTRIC.CO.UK Home wiring specialist. NICEIC. High quality local service. Freephone: 0800 211 8398 / 07939 503905

external rendering / insulation

RENDER OR INSULATION 20yr insurance backed guarantee. Free Quotes 01902 495 699 www.ecotextcontracts.co.uk

gates

ALL METAL GATES, RAILINGS, etc. Free quotes, also repairs & fitting. 07905 500642 24 hours.

DARLSTON FABS 30 years exp in supplying/fitting gates and railings. Free quotes: 07497 667752.

gardening services

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/lopping, pruning, hedges trimmed, turf, patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

J&B Tree Care, Landscape & Jetwashing Services

• Trees, shrubs and hedges planted.
• Fencing supplied and erected
• Turf supplied and laid
• Stumps treated or removed
• Hedges and shrubs tidied
• All pesticide and fungicide work undertaken.
• Jetwashing of your driveways, walls and brickwork, paths and patios.

FULLY INSURED and safety conscious!
For a free fixed quote call:
01922 449268 or 07786 166856

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

I am very pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

Steve - AA Digital Aerials

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL

01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

AA DIGITAL AERIALS

SATELLITE & CCTV AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
Work Guaranteed
01902 859191
01902 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA
Credit Trade

alarms/security

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Brought to you by Express & Star

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES

• Boilers • Cookers
• Fires • Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired
Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855/ 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans. Prepared/Submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING Plans. Prepared/Submitted. K J Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improvements. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

plumbing & heating

Premier Heating & Gas services
Installation, servicing and maintenance of all your domestic gas appliances
07825 628288
info@premierheatingandgas.com

A RELIABLE PLUMBER No job too small. No call out fee. Call Lee: 07713 149278 / 01902 330351.

A.A HEATING & PLUMBING. All gas work. Install / Service / Repair. Kitchen / Bathrooms: 01922 660410

PLUMBING WORK UNDERTAKEN No job too small or large. Call Will for a free quote on: 07521 411108.

removals

A & M CHEAP REMOVALS
Local Careful Firm
Full or Part loads
Call Don:
07749 941319

A DJ REMOVAL house or one item. Affordable rates, reliable. Call: 01902 652346 or 07912 980177.

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 340290.

FURNITURE REMOVALS We beat any quote, full or part loads, all areas. Call Keith on 07867 862227.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CLIFF NICHOLLS
Roofing & Scaffolding
Rubber Roofing
All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
35 years experience
Freephone
(0800) 220 - 729

roofing

CLIFF NICHOLLS
Roofing & Scaffolding
Rubber Roofing
All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
35 years experience
Freephone
(0800) 220 - 729

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CLIFF NICHOLLS
Roofing & Scaffolding
Rubber Roofing
All Roofing and Scaffolding Work carried out.
35 years experience
Freephone
(0800) 220 - 729

skip hire

QUICKA SKIPS
Mini, Midi, 6 Yard with doors and Builders.
7 days - Prompt Service
01902 404800 / 07983 580884
www.quickaskips.co.uk

QUICKA SKIPS

Mini, Midi, 6 Yard with doors and Builders.
7 days - Prompt Service
01902 404800 / 07983 580884
www.quickaskips.co.uk

Brought to you by Express & Star

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavement. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

HARVEYS HOUSE CLEARANCES Quick, discreet and professional. 07939 421862 /

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

RGT Wolverhampton
@RGTWolves

C.A.A.R.S. ANIMAL SANCTUARY
Registered Charity
PET RESCUE & BOARDING KENNELS
FOR DOGS AND CATS
Open Mon to Sun
Call 01922 43208
Red Lane off Crab Lane
Essington WV11 2DZ

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

5 Business & Farming

business directory

commercial premises

STORAGE UNIT TO LET
800 Sq Ft
Burntwood area.
Ring Michael Bailey,
07538 867585.

6 Property

accommodation to let

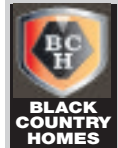
J9 Accommodation
NO DEPOSIT
★MOVE IN TODAY★
Studios from £90pw*
Rooms from £65pw*
*Includes Most Bills
CHECK WEBSITE FOR LIVE LIST
01902 213121
J9accommodation.com

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

properties wanted

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by
Express & Star

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds

BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL



CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191

Brought to you by
Express & Star

7 Jobs

full time - general

EXPERIENCED RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS MANAGER required for busy Walsall Estate Agents office. Send CV with salary requirements to ap@fraser-wood.co.uk. No Agencies.

building & construction

BRICKLAYERS gangs or single. CSCS card, own transport. Continual work. 07976 917592.

EXPERIENCED / QUALIFIED-PLUMBER required for Nationwide work, mainly in the Shopping/Catering industry for first and second fix installation work. Competitive rates of pay & overtime available. Call 01922 454687 or 07841 860663.

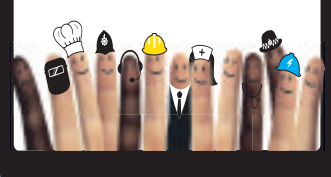
employment wanted

EXCELLENT WEST Bromwich Cleaner, trustworthy, reliable, hard-working, key holder, seeks extra hours. Anything considered. 07940 578374 after 3pm.

1000s OF JOBS AT YOUR FINGER TIPS

Register your CV today, visit:

jobs.expressandstar.com



WE CAN HELP YOU FIND YOUR PERFECT JOB!

- CV UPLOAD
- JOB ALERTS
- CV MATCHING

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Express & Star

FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

FILL YOUR NEXT VACANCY WITH OUR BRONZE FIXED PRICE RECRUITMENT PACKAGE

Bronze package includes:

- 5cm x 2 column advert in Express & Star (Thursday)
- 5cm x 2 column advert in Chronicle of your choice
- Two week listing on jobs.expressandstar.com
- 5 line advert to appear in Express & Star Classified jobs for 5 nights
- We will run the lineage and online advert on a daily basis until you fill the vacancy

Package Price £399*

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFER

Book a January recruitment package and get a second package at half price within 6 months

Contact Tracey Thompson on 01902 319645
or email tracey.thompson@expressandstar.co.uk

*All prices are subject to VAT

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

EXCELLENT CONDITION

BMW 520D SE

2010, 139,000 miles, Grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT 5 door.

£7,800 ono

07833 334999.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

BARGAIN

FORD KA
05 reg. 12 months MoT, s/h, c/l, 73,000 miles, very good condition. Ideal first car. £550. 07976 293994.

scrap vehicles

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS. VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD. WV1 2TZ

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

THE JAP MAN Top prices paid for cars, vans & 4x4s. All considered 01902 602090 / 07754 550862

vehicle hire

DALLAS
Van hire...
Wide variety of vans:
Small Large Lutons
Tippers Flats Dropsides
Crew Refrigerated Minibus
Vans Starting from £35
13A, Woden Road West, Wednesbury, WS10 7SF
www.dallas-hire.co.uk Tel: 0121 647 7112

W.T.R. VAN HIRE Connects, Transits, Lutons with Tail lifts, pick-ups. Open seven days. 01902 457002 / 01384 79090.

vehicles wanted

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

driving tuition

10 Hours £125! Four Hours £40! 2 Hours £20! All Areas Covered
AD/PPD REQUIRED. Gift vouchers available for £10
07432 488100 / 01562 870050
01384 224854 / 0121 5540090
01902 580065 www.homersdrivingschool.co.uk

spares & accessories

mobile mechanics

MOBILE MECHANICS Service & repairs. Headgasket, clutches and cambelts. 07747 848465.

highways england

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a) (THE M6 MOTORWAY (JUNCTION 10, WALSALL) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) has made an order on the M6 Motorway, in the Metropolitan Borough of Walsall, to allow ground investigation works to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to close, in phases, any slip road leading to or from the M6 at Junction 10.

The work is expected to start on 9 January 2016 and continue for 3 months. The Order will come into force on Monday 2 January 2017.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services, in connection with the works, by a traffic officer or for winter services purposes will be exempt from the closure.

Diversion routes via alternative junctions of the M6 will be signed.

For further information please contact David Reed on 0300 470 3321.

Karen Eustace, an officer in Highways England Company Limited. Highways England Company Limited (Company No. 9346363) registered office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, GU1 4LZ. A company registered in England and Wales.

Walsall Council, Planning and Building Control

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Development Management Procedure Order 2015 (as amended)

The below applications have been made to the Walsall Council. Applications can be viewed at First Stop Shop, Civic Centre, Walsall or online www.walsall.gov.uk/planning. Representations can be made online, email: planning.services@walsall.gov.uk or in writing to Head of Planning and Building Control, Civic Centre, Darwall Street, Walsall, WS1 10G. Representations should be made within 21 days of the date of this notice.

Please note: Your letter and personal details will form part of the planning file which is a public document and will be available for inspection at the Council Offices. The information may be released as part of a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

16/1782 CRE (Walsall Ltd) FOR: CHANGE OF USE FROM B8 USE CLASS (STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION) TO B8 (STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION) AND B1(C) USE CLASS (LIGHT INDUSTRIAL) AND THE ERECTION OF 6 UNITS WITH ANCILLARY TRADE COUNTERS. ACCESS FROM WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD WITH EGRESS BY HOLLYHEDGE CLOSE. AT: 38, WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, WALSALL, WS2 8PR

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

Angels
The largest adult marketplace in the Midlands
Adult Toys • Sexy Lingerie
Glamour Porn Stars
Unit 5 Frederick Street,
Walsall WS2 9NE
01922 635544

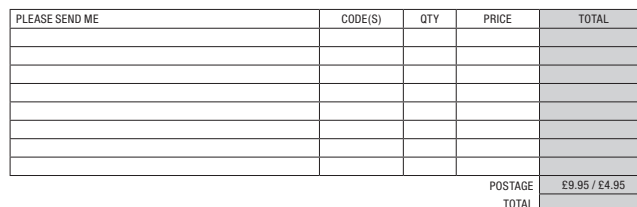
CHAMELEONS SPA Relax in our premises, 2 jacuzzi's, steamroom/sauna, Chill out rooms & bar area. Open 7 days a week from 2:00pm until late. 2 mins from J9/110 M6. For further details call 0121 5686117. www.chameleons.co.uk

THE GREENHOUSE SPA for gay/bisexual men. Jacuzzi and rest-rooms on site. TV's & ladyboys welcome Friday evenings. Open 7 days pw. 2 mins J9 /110 M6. 0121 5686126 www.gay-sauna.com

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878



ClassifiedAds



Midland News Association Ltd and other MNA companies or selected third parties may contact you with details of goods and services you may be interested in. By placing this order you give consent to Midland News Association Limited or selected third parties doing so, unless you have indicated your objection by ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from selected third parties and ticking this box ☐ if you do not want to hear from Midland News Association Ltd.



Billy Palmer, Dominic Price and Henry Hardwick celebrate success



Training in the 'progressive' and 'safe' martial art



Students go through warm up exercises at Erasmus Darwin Academy



Sean Hardwick who runs the Cannock & Burntwood Taekwondo Club

Martial arts club fighting fit for nearly 20 years

CANNOCK & Burntwood Taekwondo Club is thriving at its nears 20 years in operation. The club, which operates from schools in Cannock and Burntwood, continues to provide a hub for training world-class athletes and beginners in the martial art.

Master Sean Hardwick has been running the club since 1997, putting on sessions for children and adults of all abilities at Cannock Chase High School and Erasmus Darwin Academy in Chasetown.

Hardwick, who has trained in several disciplines for over 40 years, said: "Taekwondo is quite a progressive martial art, and it's a safe art as well."

Earned

"I run adult classes and then do classes for children as well, going from beginners to those who are going to a lot of competitions."

He added: "A lot of martial arts clubs are dying out in this day and age but I reckon there are around 150 children I teach, and around 70 adults."

"When I started out, all I wanted to do was teach adults but you get more enrichment from teaching the children – it's really big for them and you get a massive boost from seeing them do well."

Now a sixth degree black belt, Hardwick got his first taste of martial arts when he took up judo.

He earned the grade of seventh kyu and had a brief period practising karate before moving on to boxing – he stayed at Wolverhampton ABA, based at Willenhall Road until 1984.

A year prior to leaving ABA he got involved with

SPORTING FEATURE

By Joe Edwards

"You get more enrichment from teaching the children – it's really big for them and you get a massive boost from seeing them do well."

taekwondo, and has never looked back. Judo was the first thing and it went through to taekwondo," said Hardwick. "I started taekwondo in Cannock back in 1983."

"I started competing internationally and then took the club over. When I took over, there were 17 students. It is very, very popular now."

"I am doing four lessons a night, four days a week and then it tends to be competitions over the weekend."

"I like to spread four sessions over one night and get them all there and involved. I have some assistant instructors who help me out with it all as well."

Hardwick runs sessions on four nights every week – Mondays and Wednesdays at Erasmus Darwin Academy, Pool Road, and Tuesdays and Thursdays at Cannock Chase High, Hednesford Road.

The nights are typically split into four different categories, with beginner classes for children running from 5.30 until 6.15pm.

An advanced class for children will then go until

7pm, with adults of a mixed ability then going through until 8pm. A session of extra sparring and training lasts until 8.30.

The club had a group of students find success on the big stage over the summer, with Billy Palmer, Dominic Price and Henry Hardwick – Sean's son – among those claiming medals at the TAGB World Championships.

The competition was held at the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham and there were 3,700 competitors from more than 40 countries.

Palmer, aged 17, claimed gold medals in black belt middleweight sparring, individual and team.

Price, 11, also managed golds in yellow belt middleweight – both individual sparring – while Hardwick took silver in black belt heavyweight.

Progress

"Every single big tournament we have been at we have had world champions," said Hardwick. "The three lads who did so well at the last one have all been with me since the age of five, so I have seen them progress and work to become the top-class athletes they are now."

"Billy Palmer is 17 and we have got really high hopes for him. Of course, taekwondo is an Olympic sport so you could not rule it out – him being there one day."

"The next big competition is the British Championships at the Derby Velodrome and we have got plenty going down there and having a go."

Hardwick readily admits taekwondo is a huge part of his life and added: "My wife's a black belt, my children have black belts – it is very much a family thing."

For more information on the club, visit www.taekwondo.uk.net



Club members during sparring at Cannock & Burntwood Taekwondo Club, Erasmus Darwin Academy



Youngsters are put through their paces during the training sessions run by Sean Hardwick



SPORTS DESK 01902 319531

CHRON.SPORT@EXPRESSANDSTAR.CO.UK

Wood once more give it the old 1-2

Stourport Swifts 1 Walsall Wood 2
WOOD ended 2016 with their fourth 2-1 victory on the spin – a result that takes them tantalisingly close to the top six.

But they were made to fight all the way by a brave Swifts side who deserved at least a point.

The visitors who went ahead after 10 minutes as Steven Hayles' cross was controlled superbly by Drew Aiton and he played in Joey Butlin to slide home.

With seven minutes left, Wood looked to have sewn the game up as Liam Rushworth played a clever 1-2 with Butlin and his low drive from the left of the box gave Richards no chance.

But on 88 minutes Hanson raced onto a ball right of centre, his howitzer rising drive from 30 yards going through

the hands of Wood keeper Lewis Gwilliams. A minute later it should have been all square, but Matthew Pinder stabbed wide from five yards out.

Walsall Wood 2 St Andrews 1
THE new Feelgood Factor saw the new management duo of Harry Harris and Scott Rickards combine to record their third 2-1 win on the bounce on Boxing Day.

Joey butlin glanced home past name-sake Warren to give Wood the lead.

The visitors drew level on 23 minutes through Shay Brennan thanks to some pantomime defending from Wood.

The winner came from a left wing corner delivered into the centre of the box. Anthony Juxon powered in a header that Keaton Towers stopped but the ball was adjudged to have crossed the line, Butlin forcing the ball home to make doubly sure.

Monday's clash with AFC Wulfs was called off.

Wood's credentials will be put to the test when they travel to high-flying Lye Town on Saturday.

Khalsa throw out the year with win over Wulfrunians

AFC Wulfs 1 Sporting Khalsa 3
KHALSA ended 2016 on a high, condemning AFC Wulfrunians to a fourth consecutive loss.

Khalsa took the lead after 22 minutes. Craig Bannister fired his free-kick into the wall, only to then drive the rebound into the bottom corner as the ricochet fell straight back to him.

The lead was doubled within five minutes, courtesy of a long throw tactic that troubled Wulfs all day.

Jonathan Haynes launched his throw into the area and David Meese beat Josh Moreton with a header at his near post.

Wulfs were looking to get back into the game and did so when a poor defensive header left Marvin Robinson in space inside the area to pull one back.

However, Khalsa killed the game off after 64 minutes with a penalty from Meese after Yusifu Ceasay was brought down by the keeper.

Khalsa were due to play Stourport Swifts on Monday, but the game was called off. Instead, they kick off 2017 with a home tie against Tring in the last 32 of the FA Vase on Saturday.

Pics pitching in to boost community

Stourbridge 0 Rushall Olympic 0
FA CUP heroes Stourbridge were kept at bay by top-of-the-table Rushall Olympic in a Boxing Day blank at Amblecote.

Clear-cut chances proved a premium especially as Rushall defended in depth towards the end after being reduced to 10 men.

Pics' former Stourbridge striker Karl Hawley was sent off after lashing out at the Glassboys' Tom Tonks with an hour gone.

Despite being down to 10 men, Rushall held firm as Stourbridge continually proved off target.

Monday's game against Coalville was called off.

Football

Meanwhile, the Pics want to boost their community profile by installing a state-of-the-art 3G synthetic pitch. Plans have been lodged with Walsall Council's planning department.

It would be built on the Daw End canal side of the Dales Lane ground, between an existing pitch and the canal. Bosses say it could lead to more talented players training regularly in Rushall.

Vice-chairman Nick Allen estimates the project will cost somewhere between £200,000 to £250,000 to fully build. He said: "There is a need

for a 3G pitch in the area. It will be something that could be utilised for the club and the wider community. I've been involved in the club for 18 years and we want to make it more sustainable for the long term."

The club believe the pitch will help push its unique scholarship programme, which has been put together in partnership with Manor Farm Community Association and Walsall Adult and Community College.

Those who enrol on the scholarship can gain qualifications including a Level 2 BTEC in Sport and a Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma, progressing to Extended Diploma In Sport.

DALE KEEP JINX ON SADDLERS

Walsall 0 Rochdale 2
WALSALL'S first game of 2017 ended in defeat as Rochdale continued their hoodoo over the Saddlers.

Having run out convincing 4-0 winners at Spotland in November, goals from Ian Henderson and Joe Thompson saw the Dale claim their second win against Jon Whitney's side this season.

It could have been very different for the Saddlers if Ama Bakayoko hadn't missed a glorious chance to open the scoring early in the first half.

The 21-year-old blazed wildly over the bar with the goal at his mercy after being found unmarked in the box by Florent Cuvelier.

Keith Hill's side went on to capitalise and are now serious contenders to win promotion from League One.

On a cold afternoon at the Banks's Stadium, Walsall came flying out the blocks and twice went close to taking the lead inside the opening 10 minutes. First, Joe Edwards sent Kieron Morris galloping down the right flank with the winger then cutting inside and drilling a low strike which Conrad Logan did well to push away.

Timings

And from the resultant corner, Rochdale's Matt Lund got his timings all wrong and powered a header towards his own goal only for the ball to hit Logan before being claimed.

Whitney's side were looking rampant and they were presented with a glorious chance to break the deadlock minutes later.

A blistering counter-attack involving Neil Etheridge, Simeon Jackson and Cuvelier ended with the Belgian rolling the ball across the box to present an unmarked Bakayoko with a tap-in.

But the forward, 10 yards out, blazed his strike over when he should have been celebrating his ninth goal of the campaign.

Rochdale responded by taking the lead. Joe Rafferty's cross-cum-shot flashed across the front of goal before being tapped in by Henderson on the back post.

The visitors went close to doubling their advantage five minutes into the second half when Etheridge produced a smart stop to keep out a well-struck Callum Camps free-kick. The second half had proved cagey throughout with both sides



Simeon Jackson takes on Rochdale's Joe Bunney during the Banks's Stadium clash on Monday

struggling to create anything of note – until Rochdale grabbed a second to put the game to bed in the 74th minute.

Poor defending from Franck Moussa allowed Harrison McGahey to work his way into the box. The full-back then delivered a low cross which Thompson swept past Etheridge from close range.

Oxford United 0 Walsall 0

IT'S often said that New Year's Eve fails to live up to its billing.

And so it proved on Walsall's first ever visit to the Kassam Stadium as Jon Whitney's side played out an uneventful 0-0 draw with Oxford.

This was a clash that, on paper, had all the

makings of a festive cracker. Locked together on 30 points before kick-off, the winners knew they were likely to finish 2016 nicely placed in the top half of League One.

But while they couldn't be separated in the table, they also couldn't be separated on the pitch following a stalemate in which both keepers were largely spectators.

Walsall had given their supporters a late Christmas present with a 1-0 victory over Port Vale on Boxing Day. A first-half goal from Scott Laird proved the difference in an entertaining clash. Vale boss Bruno Ribeiro announced his resignation after the game.

McCarthy to stay as duo end spells

WALSALL have extended the loan of defender Jason McCarthy until the end of the season – but Josh Ginnelly and Kevin Toner both look set to leave.

McCarthy has made a big impression at the Banks's Stadium after initially joining the Saddlers on a temporary basis from Southampton back in June.

That deal was due to expire following Monday's clash with Rochdale but boss Jon Whitney has moved quickly to keep the talented defender in his squad.

McCarthy, who won the Supporters' Player of the Year award during a loan spell with League Two Wycombe last season, said: "I'm absolutely delighted to be staying here until the end of the season."

"It's been a really good first half of the season for me and I've learned a lot. It was a step up from last season, coming to League One, and the game at Oxford was my 30th since coming here. I haven't missed a minute so I really couldn't have asked for any more."

"The gaffer has shown real faith in me and I can't thank him enough. The fans and staff have been brilliant as well so I feel very lucky."

It is understood Walsall are also still working to ensure fellow loanee Scott Laird remains at the club.

But Ginnelly and Toner are believed to have been told their loans, from Burnley and Villa respectively, will not be extended.

Whitney said the club would be making a statement this week.

Ginnelly took to social networking website Twitter before the 0-0 draw at Oxford to say his farewells to Saddlers supporters.

He tweeted: "Would like to thank everyone involved at Walsall for the past six months. It's been a great experience and I wish you all the best."

Errors costly for 10-man Lockmen

WILLENHALL Town were made to pay for their mistakes as they ended 2016 with a 3-1 defeat at AFC Bridgnorth in the West Midlands League Premier Division.

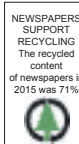
A blind back-pass led to a goal after 55 seconds from Anwar Olugbon and Karl Griffiths doubled the lead in first-half stoppage time.

The Lockmen got one back when Chadd Birch crossed for Mark Habbershaw to headed home superbly.

However, Bridgnorth broke to make it 3-1 before Cavan Chapman reacted to the crowd after a foul and was dismissed for making a hand gesture.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketterly, Telford, Thursday, January 5, 2017



Select Windows
Windows, Doors and Conservatories

WINTER SALE

Working in the local area for 36 years

Head Office: Select House, Walsall Road, Walsall Wood, Walsall WS9 9AQ
Open: Monday-Friday 9.00am - 5.00pm; Saturday 10.00am - 4.00pm
Sunday by appointment only

www.selectwindows.co.uk

Select Windows
Double Glazing

Featuring Linar's unique six-chamber frames to put the most thermally efficient windows within reach of Select customers, EnergyPlus windows:

- Utilise the latest technology to achieve U-values as low as 0.8 W/m²K
- Are made from the highest quality, 100% lead-free PVCu
- Offer enhanced security performance to PAS24:2012, meeting Part Q requirements

FREEPHONE 0800 328 3384
ESTABLISHED 1980 - 36 YEARS IN BUSINESS

WINDOWS INSTALLED FROM £200

MASSIVE SAVINGS ON ENERGY EFFICIENT WINDOWS AND DOORS

COMPOSITE DOORS FITTED FROM £650

Could you be the future of Fostering?

You can be the one who can help a child to be safe; help families who are going through a hard time. Step by step, you can make a huge difference in someone's life. – Irene, foster carer

You
Could
Foster



Walsall Council



Search **FosteringInWalsall**



Follow **@FosteringWalsal**

We know that our foster child started his life in a loving, warm, safe environment with us. His laugh, his first step, his first tooth – it is everything to us, it's priceless. – Martin, foster carer

Maria

My husband and I have always enjoyed having little ones around us and knew that despite having a busy family of our own we still had the time, love and energy to invest in caring for other children that might need us.

The lovely social worker from Walsall Children's Services that answered our call stood out to us immediately. The way she genuinely listened to and considered what we believed our family had to offer instantly let me know that this would be a team I would be proud to work with.

Our social worker gently guided our whole family throughout the assessment process - turning what had looked like a daunting task into a series of friendly chats and fun family activities. We can also access the wealth of training that is on offer to Walsall carers to ensure we are confident and well equipped to provide the highest standards of care possible and develop ourselves within our fostering careers.

We are currently caring for our very first child and we are overwhelmed every day by the extra happiness this little one brings. We feel privileged to share in her new achievements. The joy on her face and the heartfelt cheers from the whole of our family when she finally crawled forwards just a few short weeks after arriving with us was a precious moment that will stay with me forever.

Our own children have taken to fostering like a dream. The way they have readily made changes to the way we live and accepted this tiny new person into our home fills me with pride. Each one of them brings love, kindness, fun and compassion into this little one's life and each one of them gains so much back in return from her happy presence in our home.

If you are considering fostering I would say 'make the call, find out more and go for it'. Fostering is hard work, but it is also one of the most rewarding careers you could ever begin to imagine. Every ounce of time and effort you put into your work will be repaid 100 times over when you see the very real and positive differences you can make to a child's life.

Being a foster family is an amazing opportunity to make a positive change in a young person's life. You are the one who can show the light in the dark for these children.
– Irene, foster carer



We know there will be hard times and many challenges to overcome, but equally we know that there isn't another career out there for us that could offer the same level of fun and reward. - Luke, foster carer

Mike & Sally

We have been proud foster carers for 5 years and have had 20 children placed so far. We were previously with a private fostering agency; transferring to the Walsall Council fostering team early this year. We are very pleased we made the change as we have had a wide range of placements and experiences already. We know that we have always got someone to turn to for advice or support whenever we need it.

Historically I feel that fostering was seen as a role for women, but in 2016 the role feels very different. We are very well trained in all aspects of caring for children and young people, we regularly attend

meetings with fellow professionals; we are definitely treated as professionals working for Walsall fostering.

This year we were asked to take young siblings who had suffered a family bereavement. We then had to liaise with child bereavement counsellors and be party to some very difficult conversations. The children's care plan changed and we were involved in moving them to live with extended family members who could care for them. After an intense transition period all ended brilliantly and the children are doing really well.

A lot of foster carers opt to care for younger children but we are approved for children aged 0-18. We have a teenager who has been with us for over a year after coming to us for two week's respite. On paper, there were a lot of issues to consider; including being missing from

care and involvement with the police. We decided to give the young person a go and are so glad that we did. A year on, they have worked very hard to get qualifications from college and they are just about to start an apprenticeship with the health service. Foster carers can really make a difference, not only with young children, but teenagers too, they just need to be given a chance. One of the best things we hear is when they call our house HOME!!

I have learned a lot and developed a whole range of new skills as a male foster carer working with Walsall Council's fostering service. I also feel that there has been a really positive impact on the family as a whole; our own children now have a very different perspective on life as they have witnessed the challenges that other children and their families have to live through.

Beth

I have been fostering for just over two years and I have looked after four children aged between 0-4 years.

Like other jobs working with children, fostering can be very rewarding, even if it isn't always easy. It requires patience, dedication, consistency and security. I have had many positive experiences and so many happy times. Some highlights for me have been seeing the look of excitement on a child's face when she visited a farm for the first time. We spent hours there looking at the animals but it was worth it to see the happiness it brought her. Also seeing

the reaction of a child who loved her new shoes so much that she would not take them off, even at bedtime! Watching a child experience her first trip to the seaside - how thrilled she was making a sandcastle, collecting shells and then going for a paddle in the sea. Happy Times! To have the satisfaction of sharing and being part of these special milestones is wonderful.

The wide range of training courses that Walsall provide prepares you throughout each year for many of the challenges you may have to face. The support I have had from the team at Walsall Children's Services has been excellent. There is always someone there to talk to.

Right from the moment I made the call to them they were supportive. I was quite anxious to start with as being a single parent I wasn't sure what response I would get and if I would be made to feel different. I need not have worried. They gave me great advice, assistance and encouragement and that has continued right up to the present day.

Fostering is without a doubt the most rewarding job I have ever done. It has given me a real sense of satisfaction and achievement. To anyone considering fostering I would say if you can offer time and commitment then get in touch. It will probably be the best decision you ever made. It certainly was for me.

I love to help my mom with the little ones and play with them, with their toys. - Liam, son of a foster carer.

I've always thought about fostering but....

We hear this so often! There are lots of myths about who can foster and some people rule themselves out before finding out more. We've explored a few of the common myths to help you decide if 2017 could be your time to foster:

I'm too old to foster -

There's no upper age limit for foster carers! Usually, our carers are aged over 21 but as long as you are fit and able to care for a child then there is no official age where you are 'too old' to foster. We have excellent carers of all ages, including those in their sixties.

I'm single, I can't foster -

You can be single, living with a partner, married or from the LGBT community. The ability to care for a child, to keep them safe and meet their needs is what matters most. It's helpful if you have a supportive network of family or friends around you too.

I don't own my home -

You don't have to own your home, or live in a huge house to foster. Your landlord just needs to confirm to us that they are happy for you to foster. Whether you own your home or if you rent, it is important that each child you care for has their own bedroom, a space just for them.

I can't work and foster -

It depends how many hours you work, how flexible your current employer is and on the ages and needs of the children you foster. There is usually one person in the household who fosters 'full time' and is available to support the children you care for all the time. We pay allowances to cover your household costs and an additional amount for each child you foster. Some employers, including Walsall Council, have a Family Friendly policy which may provide flexibility and support if you decide to become a foster carer.

I don't have children of my own -

You don't need to have your own children to be a good foster carer. Any time that you have cared for nieces, nephews or worked or volunteered with children will be valuable experience too. We have lots of training to develop your skills and knowledge. In addition to ongoing support from your dedicated supervising social worker, there is also an active Foster Carers Association who can help with lots of things, ranging from completing fostering paperwork to organising social get-togethers.

I've got pets -

Research shows that people who have pets can make great foster carers and that having pets can be beneficial to the children in your care. We understand that your pets are part of your family and we will include your cat or dog in our assessment, looking at their temperament and behaviour, to make sure that you are all ready to foster.

Walsall Council need more foster carers to look after local children. Are you ready to take the first steps on your fostering journey and make a difference in 2017? Come and meet some of Walsall's fostering team at the friendly, informal sessions below. If you can let us know you will be coming along that would be really helpful, but we look forward to seeing you anyway.

Monday 23rd
January

10.00am - 12.00pm

Streetly Community Centre,
Foley Road East,
Streetly,
B74 3HR

Tuesday 24th
January

3.30pm - 6.00pm

The Council House,
Lichfield Street,
Walsall,
WS1 1UZ

Wednesday 25th
January

4.30pm - 6.30pm

Pelsall Village Centre,
High Street,
Pelsall,
WS3 4LX

Thursday 26th
January

10.00am - 12.00pm

Brownhills Library,
Park View Centre,
Chester Road North,
WS8 7JB

Friday 27th
January

10.00am - 1.00pm

Essington Lodge,
106 Essington Road,
Willenhall,
WV12 5EX

Discover more about fostering with Walsall Council:

Call on 0800 923 3706

Website: www.fosteringinwalsall.co.uk Email: fosteringinwalsall@walsall.gov.uk



Walsall Council



Search **FosteringInWalsall**



Follow **@FosteringWalsall**